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PART XXVII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

July 1878.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part XXVII.

No. 1.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 1.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, June* 29, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a despatch from Rear-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell, dated Gallipoli, the 16th June, containing the orders given by him to the Commanding officer of Her Majesty's ship "Cygnet" to inquire into the truth of the rumour of the Russians having made arrangements for victualling 1,200 men in the Marmora Islands.

I am, &c.

(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

(Confidential.)

Sir, "*Agincourt*," *Gallipoli, June* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, copy of "sailing orders" I have this day given to Lieutenant and Commander Wilson to proceed in the "Cygnet" to the Marmora Islands to inquire into the truth of the rumour which has reached me, that the Russians have made arrangements for the victualling of 1,200 troops there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Sailing Orders.

(Confidential.)

By Sir John Edmund Commerell, &c., &c., &c.,

A rumour having reached me that the Russians have made arrangements for the victualling of about 1,200 troops at the Marmora Islands for a certain period, it is my direction that you proceed at once and make inquiries as to the truth of it, using such despatch as will insure your rejoining my flag at this anchorage not later than Tuesday morning next.

2. If you should come across any boats or other vessels containing Russian troops, you are to inform the officer in command that you have orders to prevent his landing

on any of the Marmora Islands; and, in defiance of this intimation, he should still endeavour to do so, you are hereby authorized to resist him by force.

3. You are to examine all country boats you may observe approaching the anchorages you visit from the European shore of the Sea of Marmora, and make full inquiries as to their cargoes and business.

4. Mr. F. Guarracino, interpreter, will embark in the "Cygnet," and his services are placed at your disposal.

Given, &c., on board "Agincourt," 16th June, 1878.

(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

To Lieutenant-Commander Wm. Wilson,
Her Majesty's ship "Cygnet."

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Lieutenant-Commander Wilson to Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell.

"*Cygnet*," *Gallipoli, June* 18, 1878.

Sir,

IN compliance with your orders of the 16th instant, I weighed at 11·30 A.M. on that day, and proceeded to the town of Marmora, anchoring there at 6·30. P.M.

2. Upon receiving no information concerning the movements of the Russians, I weighed at 8.30 P.M, and during the night remained under weigh, carefully watching the north side of the island, with a view of intercepting and searching any boats that might communicate with the European shore. No attempt to do so having been observed, I landed at Calatia at daylight, and subsequently at several other points on that coast, and, getting no information, I proceeded to search the shores of the various islands, landing at Pasha Liman, Araplar, Romu Rock, and Katali, without being able to hear or see anything of any attempt on the part of the Russians to land troops or provisions.

3. Having heard a rumour that Russians had been for two days during last month at Arganshi, I landed fifteen men under Mr. Ainslie, sub-Lieutenant, and caused a most careful search to be made, which resulted in no trace of any human beings having been on the island for a considerable period.

4. The country boats boarded at the various anchorages were found to contain grain, which seems to be imported for the general use of these islands.

5. Having executed this service I proceeded to rejoin your flag at this anchorage.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM WILSON.

"*Agincourt*," *June* 18, 1878.

Forwarded for the information of the Commander-in-chief, with reference to his Confidential telegram of the 16th instant.

(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL, *Rear-Admiral.*

Vice-Admiral G. Phipps Hornby.

Copy of Telegram above alluded to.

"Watch attentively Marmora Islands, and report if any Russian troops land on any of the Group. Acknowledge."

No. 2.

Consul Zohrab to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 1.)

1, *Elgin Road, Notting Hill, W., June* 29, 1878.

My Lord,

AS I believe that authentic intelligence coming from Erzeroum may be of interest, I take the liberty to inclose some extracts from two letters I have received from my dragoman, Mr. A. Magak, dated respectively the 6th April and the 23rd May.

In a previous letter Mr. Magak informed me that most of the regiments which

had taken an active part in the Asiatic compaign had been withdrawn and replaced by fresh troops, and that though war was concluded, the numbers, instead of being diminished, were increased.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Mr. Magak to Consul Zohrab.

(Extrait.) *Erzeroum, le* 6 *Avril*, 1878.

DEPUIS l'investissement complet d'Erzeroum, c'est-à-dire depuis le 4 Janvier jusqu'à ce jour, les Russes ont perdu par l'epidémie typhus 20,700 hommes. Hier même un bataillon stationné à Ilidja est entré ici avec 132 hommes; ce bataillon appartient à la 39e Division.

Ismaïl Hakki, le Court, se trouve à Erzinghian. Erzeroum deviendra un simple zéro.

Une grande partie de la population émigrera, Chretiens pour la Russie et Musulmans pour l'intérieur. Les vivres ont atteint des prix faux.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Mr. Magak to Consul Blunt.

(Extrait.) *Erzeroum, le* 23 *Mai*, 1878.

ICI depuis trois jours les Russes croient à la guerre et on s'attend d'un moment à l'autre à sa déclaration.

Les préparatifs extraordinaires de l'Angleterre ont déjà produit leur effet sur l'esprit de l'armée Russe, et tous croient maintenant que cette Puissance, qui s'est dit exclusivement et simplement maritime, peut réellement disposer aussi des forces par terre et rivaliser ainsi les forces de sa flotte par la génie et la ténacité de ses soldats invincibles.

Les Turcs en général prennent maintenant courage et tous sont prêts à servir l'Angleterre pour recommencer cette fois-ci une lutte acharnée contre leur conquérants, mais à la seule condition d'être commandés par des officiers Anglais.

Nous attendons d'un jour à l'autre le Général Lazareff, remplaçant de Loris Melikoff. Il y a bientôt un mois qu'il se trouve à Kars, et je ne saurais vous dire pour quelle raison il n'arrive pas ici.

Je ne crois pas que les Russes en cas d'une guerre avec l'Angleterre gardent Erzeroum, car leur ligne de retraite serait trop longue pour être hors de danger; et pour cette seule raison je crois qu'aussitôt que la guerre déclarée la garnison Russe abandonnera cette place pour se retirer sur Zivin et le Soghanli.

Que feront les Russes si les Anglais attaquaient par deux divisions Erzeroum et Bayazid à la fois? Je suis sûr qu'avec 30,000 soldats purs Anglais et un contingent sous des officiers Anglais on pourra en moins de deux mois prendre Tiflis et obliger ainsi l'armée du Caucase à capituler.

L'invasion Anglaise serait de nature à prouver de très bons soldats des habitants du Caucase, Arméniens, Géorgiens et Musulmans. En dehors de cette avantage on aura aussi un grand nombre de déserteurs Russes qui seront l'objet d'une si non démoralisation au moins d'un grand désordre dans les lignes. C'est l'argent qui commandera, et les reines de la gloire et du triomphe sont attachées au bout de chaque livre sterling qui brillera aux yeux de ce pauvre peuple, qui est vraiment misérable et esclave.

Notre Gouverneur, le Général Duhowsky, m'appelle à l'instant même pour me prier de lui traduire littéralement un télégramme circulaire de Sadik Pacha, traitant l'affaire Ali Souavi Effendi. Je ne comprends pas pourquoi et comment le Ministre Ottoman communique cette nouvelle à Erzeroum, gouvernée et administrée par les Russes.

No. 3.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 1.)

No. 636.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 30, 1878, 8 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Gallipoli:—

"Thirty-five thousand troops, with 130 guns, are massed at Kashan and Itsala, mostly arrived during last ten days."

No. 3*.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June* 30, 1878.

QUESTION in Chamber, end of yesterday's sitting, respecting disturbances in Venice, Friday night, Minister of Interior replied that excursion train from Trieste having been prohibited, mob of Venetian youths paraded streets shouting "Viva Trieste Italiana." Attacked Austrian Consulate, pulling down arms; these were replaced and apologies made to Consul by Prefect. Government deeply deplores these occurrences. Will take precautions to prevent repetition, and punish authorities if they neglected duty.

No. 4.

Mr. Cross to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 1, 1878.

THE Marquis of Salisbury sent you the following telegram in cypher from Berlin on 29th instant:—

"I have communicated your two telegrams as to Rhodope insurgents to Russian Ambassador. He promises to do all he can to stop the effusion of blood and protect refugees."

No. 5.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 2.)

(No. 85. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, June* 17, 1878.

THE Armenian Roman Catholic Bishop of Trebizond, having called on me last week to inform me that great fears were entertained that the Laz had massacred his co-religionists at Artwin, I immediately applied for information to the Agent here of the Laz, who assured me that nothing of the kind had occurred, and was not to be apprehended.

As the rumour of this pretended massacre may have spread beyond Trebizond, I have the honour to report that the news is entirely without foundation.

I beg to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy and translation of a letter addressed to me by the Laz to contradict the report in question, and to protest of their friendly feelings towards the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Letter addressed by the Laz Delegates to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(Translation.) *Batoum, June* $\frac{1}{13}$, 1878.

WE have been astonished to hear that it is rumoured at Trebizond that the Laz, whom we collected and sent to occupy the points to be defended against Russian aggression, had massacred some of our Christian neighbours. This report is entirely without foundation. It is known that we have taken up arms moved by noble feelings, and only with a view to save our beloved country and that of our Christian neighbours from the inhuman hands of Russia. Having lived for centuries on friendly terms with the Christians they share our feelings, and there is no one amongst us who thinks of ill-treating them. As the Russians have always succeeded in exciting Europe against Turkey by exaggerated and false reports, we are led to believe that the present rumour is again one of their artifices. We address you this letter to assure you that the report in question is entirely false.

(Signed) The Delegates of the People.

No. 6.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 2.)

(No. 86. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, June* 17, 1878.

AT the very urgent request of the Laz I decided, although reluctantly, to forward this morning the following telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"Laz sent long address to be telegraphed to Lord Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury through your Excellency. They state that, despite contrary declarations, Russia aims only at annexation and predominancy of Orthodoxy over other creeds; and that slackness of habits, prepotency and opposition to progress prevailing in Russia, they cannot live under her rule; that, excepting 3,000 amongst them, Laz possess no lands worth money, and have therefore no means to emigrate. That to remain and to emigrate being alike impossible, they have sworn to fight (although they know they cannot resist Russia), placing women and children in front of enemy's guns to see them killed before they die themselves; that, hearing that at the Congress Lord Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury represent England (whose protection Laz have asked), they await anxiously for equitable decision, as they cannot admit that the British Representatives will sanction a settlement causing the death of 200,000 individuals."

This telegram is a summary of an address from the Laz Delegates forwarded to me by post, and which I have the honour to transmit herewith in copy and translation for your Lordship's full information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Letter addressed by the Laz Delegates to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(Telegraphic.) *Batoum, June* $\frac{3}{15}$, 1878.

UNDER the pretext of enforcing the execution of the Constantinople Protocol, but in reality with the object of annexing new territories, the Russian Government invaded our country without declaration of war, and contrary to the law of nations. The time being opportune to carry out her long-cherished intentions, and with a view to destroy the weak, Russia concluded, without consulting Europe, the Treaty of San Stefano, by which she obtained Batoum and its district, which she had been unable to conquer by arms, as part of the war indemnity, the payment of which by Turkey is beyond possibility.

The Russians aim at establishing the predominancy of Orthodoxy over other creeds; they are anti-human, and allow in their country public immorality; they are no better than outlaws, and thwart civilization by their sinister regulations. It is, therefore, impossible for us to live under their rule.

If in execution of the Treaty of San Stefano (which is a consequence of the will of Peter the Great), Russia fixes three years for the inhabitants of Batoum to sell their lands and depart: we cannot accept a similar proposal, which is unjust and impossible of execution. Supposing that we should consent to sell our property, who is to buy it? the Russians, of course. If Batoum is in their possession, and if secret orders are not given to thwart the sale of property, they are not so narrow-minded as to buy lands which will belong to them at the end of three years. Even admitting that they purchase these lands, only those at Batoum and at Artwin have some value; they are owned by 3,000

individuals, while the other 200,000 are very poor, possessing only thatched houses, mats for beds, a few utensils for all furniture; the little ground which belongs to them is capable of yielding only a few bushels of Indian corn, and is, therefore, without value, while they have large families which are famished, barefoot, and in distress. What to do and where to go? Should this class remain they shall see before long their wives in the arms of the Cossacks, a dishonour to which they (nor even idolaters) cannot submit. Should they decide to emigrate at all costs, as they have not the means to do so, it is likely that they will all die from want of food on the road.

To remain and to emigrate being alike impossible, we are determined, without exception, to die for the defence of our sacred religion, our beloved country, and our honour, leaving behind us a sad page of history.

Should Batoum fall, by whichsoever means, into the hands of the Russians (which God forbid), although we know that it is impossible for a small population like ours to resist so colossal a Government, we are, nevertheless, decided to fight and die in trying to prevent the invasion of our territory.

We shall begin by placing our young children and our beloved wives in front of the enemy's guns, and after we witness their being killed we shall also, as we have sworn to do, die fighting with arms and sticks, and tearing the faces of the Russians with our very nails.

And it must not be believed that what we say are mere words. Our fate will be a source of tears for the friends of humanity and of civilization in the present century, and to mankind at large; the ferocious beasts themselves will be moved.

Having heard that you represent Great Britain (whose protection we have asked) at the Congress of the European nations, and everybody knowing of your kindness and righteousness, we are happy that you should have been so appointed, and we await with anxiety the equitable decision to which you will no doubt come.

We cannot believe that you will cause the deaths of 200,000 individuals, by allowing them to remain in the rapacious hands of Russia. We hope, on the contrary, that your presence at the Congress will leave no ground for history to record that you have caused the misfortunes of Batoum. We believe that in all cases you will treat the question which concerns us with humanity, and that, taking pity on our children and wives, you will avert from us the necessity of spilling our blood. In this conviction we beg your Lordships to accept our most respectful thanks.

(Signed) The Delegates of the People.

No. 7.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 41. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, June 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, according to information received here, active military preparations are being made by Austria in the provinces adjoining Bosnia. The Dalmatian regiments have been placed on a war footing, and orders have been issued from the Austrian Consulate-General of this town for all men of the reserve at present in Bosnia to immediately join their respective regiments. From Brood, on the Save, I am also informed that preparations have been made there for the reception of a large number of troops.

A concentration of forces is again reported to be taking place in Montenegro, this time at Grahovo, and the districts of the Herzegovina occupied by the Montenegrins have been almost denuded of troops.

The rumour that the armed refugees who had returned to the district of Nevisinje had again withdrawn is now authenticated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 8.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 22. Consular.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, June 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, according to an order from Constantinople of the $\frac{20}{18}$th June, the duty has been taken off all grain entering the Herzegovina until after the ensuing harvest. This measure, adopted earlier, might have brought some relief to the district, but it is now too late to give any impulse to importation, as the barley harvest has already commenced.

Cereals and, indeed, all crops, give promise, both in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, of an unusually abundant yield.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 9.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 2.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, July 2, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell, dated 21st June, inclosing copy of the orders given by him to Lieutenant Wilson, of Her Majesty's ship "Cygnet," in consequence of a rumour having reached him that the Russians were making arrangements for victualling about 12,000 troops at the Marmora Islands.

I am also to send you a copy of the letter which my Lords have addressed to Vice-Admiral Hornby in reply, pointing out that the Rear-Admiral exceeded his instructions in giving these orders, which might have led to serious consequences.

I am, &c.

(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Secret and Confidential.)

Sir, *"Agincourt," at Gallipoli, June 21, 1878.*

YESTERDAY I had the honour to telegraph to you as follows:—

"Your telegraphic communication received respecting Russians landing on Marmora Islands. Instructions to ships cruizing in the neighbourhood amended accordingly."

2. I desire, Sir, you will explain to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the circumstances under which the "Cygnet" was ordered to Marmora Islands, and the reasons I had for giving her Commander the orders (copy inclosed), which it has transpired are not approved.

3. News reached me, from what I considered a reliable source, that arrangements had been made for the victualling of 1,200 Russian troops at Marmora; and feeling that if this were really the case, it probably meant that the Russians had further designs, which, if carried into execution, might involve the safety of the forts on the Asiatic shore of the Dardanelles, I considered that I was doing but right, and only acting in accordance with their Lordships' views, in sending a vessel to examine the locality, with instructions, in the event of any troops landing on the islands, to warn them off, and resist their endeavours, if necessary, by force, for it appeared to me (and does still) that my occupation of those islands by the Russians would be quite as threatening a proceeding on their part as an attack on the lines of Gallipoli.

4. The "Condor" has this day proceeded to take her station at the Marmora Islands for the present, with orders modified in accordance with their Lordships' telegram, and I have forwarded a copy of my instructions to Commander Day, for the information of the Commander-in-chief.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

Sailing Orders.

(Confidential.)

By Sir John Edmund Commerell, &c., &c., &c.

A RUMOUR having reached me that the Russians have made arrangements for the victualling of about 1,200 troops at the Marmora Islands for a certain fixed period, it is my direction that you proceed at once to make inquiries as to the truth of it, using such despatch as will ensure your rejoining my flag at this anchorage not later than Tuesday morning next.

2. If you should come across any boats or other vessels containing Russian troops, you are to inform the Officer in command that you have orders to prevent his landing on any of the Marmora Islands, and if, in defiance of this intimation, he should still endeavour to do so, you are hereby authorized to resist him by force.

3. You are to examine all native craft approaching the anchorages you visit from the European shore of the Sea of Marmora, and make full inquiries as to their cargo and business.

4. Mr. F. Guarracino, Interpreter, will embark in the "Cygnet," and his services are placed at your disposal.

Given on board the "Agincourt," at Gallipoli, this 16th day of June, 1878.

(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

To William Wilson, Esq.,
Lieutenant and Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Cygnet."

By command of the Rear-Admiral.
(Signed) H. C. W. GIBSON, *Secretary.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 9.

Mr. Walley to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

(Confidential.)

Admiralty, July 2, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell's letter of 21st June, No. 15, inclosing copy of the orders given by him to the Commanding Officer of the "Cygnet," to proceed to the Marmora Islands to inquire into the truth of the rumour that the Russians were making arrangements for the victualling of about 1,200 troops in those islands, and, if necessary, to prevent the landing of these troops by force.

My Lords desire that you will acquaint the Rear-Admiral that they consider that in this case he should have telegraphed for further instructions before taking any steps which his orders did not authorize, and which might have led to serious consequences.

I am, &c.

(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

No. 10.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 637.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 1, 1878.

MONSIGNOR NERSES, the Armenian Patriarch, informs me that Prince Bismarck has laid before Congress letter presented to him by Armenian Delegates, as well as the proposed regulations for future government of Armenia. Monsignor Nerses now begs me to telegraph to your Lordship that unless Armenian functionaries are employed to reorganize province the scheme must fail. Armenians do not demand annexation to a foreign Power nor to become an independent State, only to live happily under sovereignty of Sultan. The project submitted to Congress is conceived in this spirit.

No. 11.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 638.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 1, 1878.

GRAND VIZIER informs me that Porte is now ready to evacuate Schumla and Varna, but that Russian Ambassador has stated to him that as those places are given up in pursuance of decision of Congress, Russia is released from her engagement to withdraw her troops from the neighbourhood of Constantinople, into which she had entered on condition of the Turks surrendering Varna and Schumla.

I gather from what Grand Vizier tells me that Plenipotentiaries will be instructed not to protest against occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

No. 12.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)

(Telegraphic.)

Canea, Crete, July 1, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, it is not true that Turkish Admiral insists on foreign ships leaving harbour before this town. At Rethymo Moslems threaten Christians, and English ship of war has gone there.

No. 13.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 639.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 1, 1878.

I HAVE had a very satisfactory interview with the Sultan to-day. He begged me to thank you warmly for all that you and Lord Beaconsfield are doing for him, and to say that he attaches the greatest importance to Batoum not passing into the hands of the Russians, and trusts that you will be able to prevent it. He assured me that he was very anxious to have honest and capable men for his Ministers, and mentioned Ahmed Vefyk among those he intended to employ.

No. 14.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bucharest, July 2, 1878.

GREAT uneasiness felt here on the subject of Bessarabia. One of the Roumanian Delegates, namely, Foreign Minister, suspected of playing a double game, and of favouring Radowitz's (*sic*) old scheme—when German Consul here—of abrogating Constitution, etc. Urgent representations made to the Prince on that account by the House of Commons (Deputies?) to recall this Delegate at once.

No. 15.

Acting Consul Barker to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 28. Political.)

Salonica, June 26, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 22nd instant, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting further particulars of the Albanian movement, and the anarchy and brigandage existing for want of a settled administration. Also the preliminary steps to laying down a submarine telegraph cable between Salonica and Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, June* 22, 1878.

REFERRING your Excellency to my despatch of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, a copy of the Report I have received of the projected rising of the Albanian population, which is now an established fact.

From Cavalla I learn that the influential Beys of Drama, setting aside the Mutasserif, or Governor, have enrolled 2,000 Bashi-Bazouks to fight the Russians and Bulgarians, because they have heard that the Bulgarians have burnt six Mahommedan villages in the Rhodope Mountains.

The Christians of Drama, called upon by these Beys to pay for this contingent, have refused, declaring the demand illegal since the Porte has signed a Treaty of Peace with Russia; and yet on the 22th instant a battalion of infantry, two field-pieces, with ammunition, were landed at Cavalla by an Ottoman corvette "Odirné," and were sent on to Drama.

For more than two months the Town of Cavalla has been without a Kaïmakam, and anarchy prevails in the country districts, and brigandage is on the increase with impunity. In the vicinity of Karraferia ("Veria"), within two hours of Colonel Synge's property, a band of robbers have killed two Turks and pillaged some hamlets. And at Kitros, near Mr. Bizzo's farm, another band have shot a Turk and carried off three others who were making salt, demanding 1,000 liras as ransom.

Nothing whatever has been done by the Defterdar in the matter of Mr. Bizzo's cattle; orders were sent to Catterina by him, but no attention has been paid to them; and I do not think anything will be done until a Vali be appointed for Salonica.

Yesterday a British vessel, the "Great Northern," having on board several British officers, arrived here to examine and decide on the most fitting place for the landing and establishment of a submarine telegraph cable, but she left before the evening for Besika Bay.

Constantinides Pasha, the Musteshar, has left for Vienna, on leave, to take the baths somewhere in that vicinity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

Extract from a Letter received by Acting Consul Barker from Uskub.

ON sait de sources certaines qu'une Association redoutable vient de se former parmi les Albanais. Ceux-ci sont au premier signal à se soulever contre la décision du Congrès. Ils le déclarent à grands cris, disant:—

"Plutot mourir que devenir 'Ghiaour!' Si le Gouvernement veut nous vendre, si l'occupation Chrétienne a lieu, nous prendrons les armes; car cette occupation nous demanderà compte, et par la grâce de Mahomet nous ne pouvons payer que par notre sang. Comment pourrions nous vivre sous le joug étranger? On nous dira que nos femmes ne nous appartiennent pas légitimement parce qu'elles sont Chrétiennes de sang, et que nous les avons volés; que nos biens proviennent de rapines; que nos champs ne sont pas à nous. Mieux vaut la mort qu'une pareille situation.

"Nous ne sommes pas des Tcherkess que l'on pourra chasser; nous sommes des Bobeeks. Nos montagnes sont notre patrie, et nos fusils notre défense contre toute attaque."

Le but de cette Association formidable mais indisciplinée est d'engager la guerre avec les Serbes; et le rendezvous (après Prisrend) disent ils, selon leur ignorance en géographie, serait à Varna!

No. 16.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Cross.—(Received July 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July* 3, 1878.

FOLLOWING was sent to Layard last night:—"Count Schouvaloff has informed me that he has the Emperor's authority to state that if the insurgents cease hostilities the Russian troops will not prevent them from returning to their villages, and will abstain from any act of repression. Orders will be given in this sense to the military authorities."

No. 17.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 784.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 3, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copies of a communication and of its inclosure from M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius relative to the present state of affairs in Thessaly;* and I have to request you to call the attention of the Porte to the statements contained in these papers, and to express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that strict orders may be given to the Ottoman authorities in Thessaly with a view to prevent any undue exercise of power by which disturbance may be caused.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 18.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 785.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 4, 1878.

YOUR Excellency's despatch No. 758, Confidential, of the 11th ultimo, has been received and laid before the Queen.

In reply I have to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your endeavours, as reported in that despatch, to induce the Porte to come to an amicable arrangement with the Greek Government for a rectification of the frontiers between the two countries.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 19.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 20. Political.)

My Lord, *Adrianople, June* 17, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that, concurrently with the installation of Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff as Imperial Russian Commissioner at Philippolis, some important changes have been made in the form of civil administration of the districts on this side of the limits of Bulgaria as defined by the Treaty of San Stefano.

Previously to the departure of General Dellingshausen, about a month ago, the post of Governor-General and the chief military command at Adrianople had been vested in the same person. The civil department was then separated from the other, and administered by General Lipinski as Acting Governor-General. Under the Governor-General and his *locum tenens* the post of Governor of the district of Adrianople (which comprises, besides the town, 334 villages), was held by M. Ivanoff, formerly Russian Consul here. M. Ivanoff also presided over the Administrative Council of the province.

When Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff passed through Adrianople on his way to

* May 17, 1878.

Philippopolis be announced to these officials that their appointments would be superseded by others to be made by himself.

On the 12th instant, accordingly, the new order of things was inaugurated by the arrival from Philippopolis of a new Civil Governor of the district of Adrianople, in the person of M. Baumgartner. The official designation of this functionary rank, in Turkish, is "Mutessarif." He is under the direct orders of the Commissioner at Philippopolis. The post of Governor-General is abolished. M. Baumgartner was followed, on the 14th instant, by eighteen Sub-Governors or "Kaimakams," appointed to administer under him the affairs of the remaining districts of South Roumelia up to the Russian lines before Constantinople and Gallipoli. All these Sub-Governors are Russians. Most of them have already proceeded to their posts. The chief object of their appointment is supposed to be the collection of taxes. To-day notice was given that, of the silk-worm tax, one half is to be paid at once, and the other half in a fortnight's time. The sheep-tax is to be paid in three weeks from to-day. The tithes are being farmed out and made payable 25 per cent. in cash, and the remainder in three monthly instalments.

No official notice of the above appointments has yet been published. It is understood that M. Ivanoff will resume Consular employment, as will also M. Troyanski, formerly Russian Consul at Janina, and who had been holding the post of President of the Municipal Council here.

The general form of administrative and judicial organization hitherto existing at Adrianople will, it is believed, remain unchanged. There are two Administrative Councils and two Judicial Tribunals, namely:—

1. The Provincial Council of Administration, consisting of one Bulgarian, one Greek, one Jewish, and two Turkish members, under the Presidency of the Russian Governor, and with an Armenian Vice-President.

2. The Municipal Council, with three Bulgarian members, and one member from each other community. A Russian officer of police provisionally holds the post of President, vacated by M. Troyanski.

3. The Civil Tribunal, with one member from each community, under the Presidency of M. Manoli Sakellarios, a Greek, formerly dragoman of the Russian Consulate. The Vice-President is a Bulgarian.

4. The Criminal Tribunal, with one member of each community, under the Presidency of M. Aleco Sakellarios (a brother of the above), and having an Armenian Vice-President.

The members of these four bodies are, with few exceptions, persons of no note, and they seem to have been chosen as tools known to be ready to do the bidding of the Russian authorities without question. Prominent among them is more than one individual whose admission to office, even under the lax conditions of Turkish rule, would have been out of the question. As a natural consequence, according to common report, corruption and jobbery reign supreme; and I have heard partizans of Russia, who were able to speak from personal knowledge, admit that, compared with the existing state of things here, Turkish venality was as nothing.

That any improvement in the administration of public affairs may be hoped for in consequence of the changes above referred to it is not easy to suppose in the face of the following incident: the day before the arrival of the new Governor, during a sitting of the Provincial Council, loud and incessant cries were heard issuing from the public prison which adjoins the Government konak. They were found to proceed from an unhappy Jewish prisoner who was being most unmercifully flogged by a Bulgarian Major of Police, named Hadji Mikhaïl, for having too pertinaciously endeavoured to call that official's attention to some request. The Council, on verifying the facts, dismissed the Major from his post and placed him under arrest. On the arrival of the new Governor next day, the first act of M. Baumgartner was to release Hadji Mikhaïl and to re-instate him in his functions. The brutality of this officer towards his prisoners, the arbitrary corporal punishments inflicted on them at his caprice, and his ruffianly conduct generally, had been matter of common talk before they received confirmation from the above circumstance. It is also reported as a notorious fact that the house of Hadji Mikhaïl is filled with plundered property; and there are at least *prima facie* grounds for such a belief, inasmuch as the local Christian police organized by the Russian authorities took a leading part in the pillage which prevailed for several weeks after the occupation of the town. This was notably the case with regard to some Turkish property in a house which, although left under the protection of the French Consulate and situated opposite to the Consul's residence, was broken into and pillaged by policemen and Russian soldiers one day about the end of February.

Whilst it is but just to state that property in the town of Adrianople is now respected, and that no further complaints are made in the rural districts of the behaviour of the Russian troops, the conduct of the Bulgarians and Greeks towards the Mussulman villagers, instead of improving, is, I regret to say, growing worse. In places where troops happened to be stationed the Turkish inhabitants, it is true, suffer no molestation, and in some instances, as I have had occasion to report, property plundered by Greeks has been recovered and restored to its owners; but in no instances, that I am aware of, has a similar course been pursued with regard to property pillaged by Bulgarians; nor, especially, has an example in any case been made of the offenders. As regards the Bulgarians, the distinctly passive attitude of the Russian authorities in all things must necessarily lead them to believe that their misdeeds are viewed with indifference, if not with approval. It must be stated that the Greeks in this neighbourhood are now even more conspicuous than the Bulgarians in their persecution of the Turks. This appears to be still more decidedly the case in the districts further south, towards Rodosto; as to which, the only detailed accounts that have reached Adrianople are those contained in the Constantinople newspapers.

The open declaration of the Christians, no less than their acts, as daily reported from all parts of the country, point to a settled resolve to bring about a general exodus of the Mussulmans. One Turkish village after another is being plundered of the remnant of its cattle, and and the owners are killed whenever they offer resistance. The Turkish peasants are everywhere told they must prepare to leave the country. In the abandoned villages the mosques are being levelled with the ground, and such houses as remain standing are occupied by Christians from neighbouring places. In all cases where fugitives have attempted to return to their homes they have been driven away, and in no single instance have their petitions for protection from the Russian authorities been attended to.

On this head it is necessary here to correct a mis-statement into which I was led in my despatch to your Lordship, No. 12, of the 8th ultimo, relative to the supposed adoption of a juster policy, evidenced by the bringing of a large number of Bulgarians into Adrianople in chains for robbing and maltreating Turkish fugitives. I regret to state that I have found, on further inquiry, that I too readily gave credit to a disposition to accord justice for which there has proved to be no foundation. The real facts are these:—A party of about 400 Turkish refugees, with 60 waggons, from Kirk Kilissa and Baba-Eski were being brought towards Adrianople under a Cossack escort. On their arrival at Havsa, four hours' from Adrianople, the Commandant relieved the Cossacks and made over the refugees to the charge of six native Christian gendarmes. When they had got a few miles on the road these guardians set about plundering the party committed to their care, at the same time maltreating the men and violating the women and girls. The facts having become known on their arrival here the gendarmes were arrested (not put in chains), and the case examined into. At the end of ten days, as the result of a mock inquiry, the accused were set at liberty, and re-instated in their functions. None of the plundered property was restored; and, whether justly or not, this almost invariable circumstance in similar cases is not unreasonably construed by the victims as indicating that a participation in the booty, no less than the systematic acquittal of Christians for offences against Mussulmans, has its influence in the denial of justice.

I may here remark that whilst the Bulgarians and Greeks make common cause against the Mussulman population, a subordinate movement is being directed by the Bulgarians against the Greeks and all other communities. At Hasskiöi the Turks, Jews, and Greeks are maltreated and abused alike by their Bulgarian fellow-townsmen. The Jewish community at Slimia had followed the Turkish inhabitants on their retreat before the Russian army. Some of them who lately endeavoured to return to their homes were driven away by the Bulgarians, nor have the Russian military authorities at that place interfered on their behalf. Even the small Armenian community at Slimia is insulted, and warned that they will have to quit the country, the Bulgarians saying, "This place is now part of Bulgaria, and must be left to the Bulgarians." Similar language is held towards the Greek community at Yumboli, and a Greek merchant who established himself there some years ago has met with so much annoyance that he has found it necessary definitely to give up his business and leave the place.

To return to the main subject, the most signal instance of Russian acquiescence and participation in the flagrant wrongs which are being perpetrated on the hapless Mussulmans has yet to be mentioned. It is furnished by the present action of

the authorities with regard to the harvests, a matter whose importance claims special attention.

On the 28th ultimo an official notice was published calling upon the owners of fields to get their titles registered, personally or by deputy, within a space of eleven days, in order that they might gather their harvests. The call was largely responded to, and permits were issued for the district of Adrianople. As regards the more distant parts of the country, applicants were told to await the arrival of the new Governor. Those of the former category who presented themselves to the various district authorities were contemptuously ordered off and told that they had no right to any property there. This has happened, among other places, at the mixed Greco-Turkish villages of Avariz, Yeni-Kioï, Buyuk-Ismaïlcha, and Hadji-Kioï, all within a few miles of Adrianople. Yet, not even in these cases, have the authorities seen fit to enforce obedience to their ostensible orders. Moreover two or three days before the expiration of the term allowed, those villagers who were setting out with their permits were ordered to turn back and await further instructions. The measure has, in short, remained a dead letter. The barley crops belonging to Mussulmans are already being reaped and appropriated all over the country by the Christians, and now, within the last day or two, the Turkish peasants are being offered by the Russian authorities 6 piastres a-day with bread rations to gather the wheat crops for the Government, to whose use those crops are, in point of fact, confiscated.

This arbitrary step, coming upon the tacit acquiescence of Russian policy in the attitude of the Bulgarians and Greeks, has convinced the Turks that nothing less has been determined upon than their utter ruin, and their expulsion by direct and indirect means from the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 20.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 21. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Adrianople, June* 17, 1878.

I BEG leave to state that the remarks contained in my preceding despatch of to-day's date, reflecting on the composition of the administrative and judicial bodies here, refer in particular to the Vice-Presidents of the Municipal Council and of the Civil Tribunal.

An adequate idea of the quality of Russian rule in this province can best be arrived at by a knowledge of the antecedents of the men who have been selected to fill those posts.

The first of the above-mentioned officials, Yakimhoglu Kirkor Aga, an Armenian, was imprisoned six years ago for an unnameable outrage committed at Hasskioï, and the victim of which died in consequence.

The second, Yovantcho Nefkoff, a Bulgarian, and proprietor of a khan in this town, was, conjointly with a Bulgarian priest, convicted in 1873 of the murder of a Cretan Mussulman merchant, known to have a large sum of money in his possession, who had put up at his khan, and who had disappeared two years before. The body of the victim was found in an empty well in the grounds attached to a Bulgarian school-house. Yovantcho was condemned to hard labour for life, but subsequently, by means of a heavy ransom, obtained his release.

The existing state of things is no other than might be looked for where men of such a stamp form part of the administrative body. The Russian régime in this province is not merely defective, but radically and utterly bad.

As regards the chief sufferers by it—the Mussulman population—although I uniformly tell all comers that I am powerless to do anything for them, and refer them to their accredited intercessor, Fasso Effendi (the same who was Acting Vali when the Russians entered Adrianople), hardly a day now passes without deputations of Turks from one or more villages soliciting permission to state their grievances to me and ask my advice. The sentiment expressed in various ways by these poor people may be summed up by the words of one of their spokesmen:—"Only let England," he said,

"show us a corner where we and our families can live in peace and be safe from the Bulgarians and Greeks, we will be content, and will ask for nothing more."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 21.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 93.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July* 1, 1878.

M. DAVID RUSSO, President of the Israelite Committee in Belgrade, has called upon me, and exposed to me the condition of his co-religionists in Servia, with a view that I should bring it before your Lordship.

Although I am not as yet sufficiently acquainted with the question to do more than mention the facts related to me by M. Russo, still I have heard it generally expressed that the condition of the Jews in Servia is one really deserving of attention.

The Laws of 1850 and 1861 forbid all Jews from exercising their commercial avocations in the interior of Servia, or to establish themselves outside Belgrade, but it may be remarked at the same time that, in this respect, they are only placed on the same footing as other aliens who are not allowed to possess property in the country.

I do not know of any law which prevents the Jews rising to military rank or to civil honours, though, as a matter of fact, it does not appear at the present time that there are any Jewish officers in the Servian army, or any Government employé of that persuasion.

They are bound to military service, it is true, and this is an argument in favour of their not being treated as aliens.

One Israelite was actually elected as Deputy for Belgrade to the Skuptchina by the Prince, who has the constitutional privilege of naming one-third of the Deputies, and this is another proof that the Jews are considered not as foreign but as Servian subjects.

Such being the case, there seems to be a patent injustice in their being looked upon as Servians where their services are requisite, and as aliens where their own interests are at stake.

According to a paragraph of the Law of 1861, Jewish families resident in the interior previously to that time, might carry on their business without the right, however, of transmission to their children, and if the same law be applied, though in a modified form as regards dates, to the Jews resident at Nisch, Pirot, Vranja, and Leskowatz where, in the aggregate, they number about 250 families, it is clear that their condition under Christian rule will become worse than it was under Turkish domination.

I had not the opportunity of speaking to M. Ristich on this subject before he left Belgrade, but I gather from my colleagues, generally, that he is inclined to change the laws which at present affect the Jews of Servia, but somewhat fears the responsibility which it entails, and the opposition the Skuptchina is sure to offer to any such proposal.

If this be the case, your Lordship will see how naturally the resolutions of the Congress, if any are come to, will act beneficially both in ameliorating the condition of the Jews, and in relieving the Servian Ministers of the odium which they dread on the part of their own countrymen, should they themselves propose the necessary alterations of the law, and on that of Europe, should they maintain the injustice to which these laws at present point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 22.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 395. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, June* 26, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister at this Court, called upon me this afternoon and told me that he had to-day

received a telegram from his Consul at Karvasara, in Acarnania, reporting a considerable movement of troops towards, and an accumulation of military stores and provisions near the frontiers, and that he intended questioning M. Coumoundouros, the Minister President, on the subject. He expressed to me the opinion that the Greek Government were moving troops towards the frontiers with a view of keeping the attention of the Congress fixed upon the Greek question, and, if possible, of forcing the hand of the Powers of Europe. He stated that he was continuing to urge his Government to send troops to Thessaly and Epirus, as he said that the absence of troops from those provinces created a great temptation to the Greek Government to enter upon an aggressive policy. I asked him if he did not think such a step on the part of the Porte at present might provoke some movement on the part of Greece, but he replied that he was not of that opinion.

Later in the day I saw M. Coumoundouros and I asked him what truth there was in reports as to a movement of troops towards Turkish territory. He said there was none, but that owing to the presence of brigands on the frontiers some battalions had received orders to be in readiness to march in order to take measures against them if necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 23.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 307.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 27, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 302 of the 21st instant inclosing to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Consul Sir Charles Scbright, and of a letter which I addressed to Mr. Coumoundouros respecting the proceedings of a certain Coutzivali, at Bolzi, in Epirus, I have the honour to inclose herewith copies of a letter to me from M. Coumoundouros, and of a telegram to him from the Nomarch of Acarnania, stating that no person of such a name is known to the Nomarch as having been released from the prison at Arta.

On referring to a report from M. Onofrio to Sir Charles Schright dated the 28th of May last, I find that some persons bearing the name of Cusuvakis, name very similar to the name of the person complained of in Sir Charles Schright's despatch, were liberated from the gaol at Arta, and I yesterday pointed this out to M. Coumoundouros who said he would write to the Nomarch of Acarnania on the subject.

I have mentioned this incident to Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

M. Coumoundouros to Mr. Wyndham.

Mon cher Monsieur, *Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, le 19 Juin, 1878.*

DES que j'ai reçu votre lettre du 21 courant, je me suis empressé de télégraphier au Nomarque d'Acarnanie pour lui signaler les faits dont vous vous plaignez.

Il résulte de sa réponse que le nom de Coutzivali délivré des prisons d'Arta lui est tout-à-fait inconnu, et que d'après les renseignements qui lui sont parvenus, il y'a eu à Pradoviti une collision entre Chrétiens et Musulmans à la suite d'enlèvement de bétail fait par ces derniers, et du pillage d'un couvent.

Il paraîtrait que ce sont ces faits qui ont donné naissance à la version qui nous est parvenue.

Ci-joint vous trouverez copie du télégramme du Nomarque d'Acarnanie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) COUMOUNDOUROS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

M. Donkas to M. Coumoundouros.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)
M. le Premier Ministre, *Missolonghi, June 21, 1878, 3 P.M.*

THE name Coutzivali is entirely unknown to me, neither have I ever heard that a person of that name had been detained by the Ottoman authorities. An attack upon the Turks took place at Radovitzi in consequence of the carrying off of cattle, of excesses, and robbery of convent. The insurgents, fearing ill-treatment, have, I know, demanded from the English Consul that the Turks should withdraw from Radovitzi and Thivermerka, otherwise they will by no means promise to put down their arms. This in reply to to-day's telegram.

The Nomarch,
(Signed) DONKAS.

No. 24.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 833.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 26, 1878.*

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 805 of the 19th instant, respecting the insults offered by the Russians to the British Vice-Consulate at Bourgas, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch I have addressed to Vice-Consul Brophy on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 24.

Sir A. H. Layard to Vice-Consul Brophy.

Sir, *Therapia, June 21, 1878.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 12th instant, complaining of insults of the Russo-Bulgarian authorities at Bourgas to the British Vice-Consulate, and of their threats to enter your house by force, to billet soldiers in it, and to pull down the Consular flag. You ask me for instructions as to the course you should pursue, should these threats be carried out. You cannot, it is clear, repel force by force, you can only, consequently, protest formally to the Russian authorities against any violence that may be offered to you, abstaining from using any language to them which may afford a ground of complaint against you on their part. I have transmitted a copy of your despatch to the Marquis of Salisbury.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 25.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 87. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, June 21, 1878.*

VISCOUNT DU KALGOUET, the French Military Attaché at Constantinople, returned yesterday from Batoum, and leaves to-morrow for his post.

I have gathered from the French Consul that at Artuin, which the Viscount visited, there are about 300 Russians, and three Turkish battalions living on the best terms. The bridge over the Tsorookton is occupied on one side by the Turks and on the other by the Russians, who have, at about two hours distance, five battalions—their only forces, it would seem, in that direction. The Laz who are all under arms are reckoned to number 40,000 volunteers, while Captain Wood's report that the whole regular Turkish troops in the Laziston amount to about 18,000 strong, is not contradicted.

It would seem that some sensation was created at Batoum, owing to the French flag

having been hoisted on board the Turkish transport in which Vicount du Kalgouet was a passenger.

The Laz populations along the road to Artwin received him with enthusiastic demonstrations, associating the name of England to that of France in their acclamations. They also manifested their determination to oppose Russian invasion, for which purpose the very children are under arms.

Dervish Pasha is said to have strongly reprimanded the Captain of the transport for his having hoisted on board the French flag under the present circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 26.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 88. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, June 22, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople having wired to me, on the 15th instant, that with reference to my telegram of the 3rd instant the Porte had instructed the Vali to inquire into the case of the girl Elpis, I have the honour to transcribe, for your Lordship's information, the answer which I have just forwarded to Mr. Layard:—

"Porte ordered to allow Elpis, if she is fifteen, and willing to do so, to embrace Islamism. Bishop refuses to recognize proceedings during his absence, maintains that she is only thirteen, and asks that she should remain some time in Christian house. Pasha telegraphed for fresh instructions."

The Greek Bishop has received no instructions, or notice of any kind, on the subject in question from the Patriarchate.

The Pasha, on the receipt of the order of the Porte, invited the Greek Bishop, whom I informed also of the circumstance, to appear at the Medjliss.

He did so on Thursday last, and stated that he could not recognize the proceedings which had taken place during his absence, affirming that according to the baptismal registers of the Church Elpis is only thirteen years one month and a-half.

But to this was opposed the former declaration of the girl, who had stated that she was fifteen.

The Bishop asked that in all cases Elpis, who was not present at the Medjliss, should be allowed to remain for some time, one day at least, in a Christian house before she was permitted to embrace Islamism. But this was refused, as also his demand to have an interview with her, in one of the rooms of the Seraglio, without Mussulman members of the Medjliss being present.

However, the Pasha has told me this morning that he has not yet allowed Elpis to embrace Islamism, but that he has telegraphed to Constantinople for fresh instructions.

It appears to me that the real age of the girl, which is the main question ordered by the Porte to be ascertained, and has not been yet disposed of, might have been examined without further reference to Constantinople.

The question of the punishment of the officer who carried off Elpis having been raised by one of the Christian members of the Medjliss, he was answered that it did not concern that Tribunal, but the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 27.

Mr. Blake to the Earl of Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

Varna Railway Company, No. 8, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C., July 2, 1878.

My Lords,

IT has for some days been publicly reported that the portion of Bulgaria north of the Balkans is by the decision of the Congress of Berlin to be constituted a Principality practically independent of Turkey. This country will comprise the line of railway from Rustchuk to Varna, which is the property of an English company, and has an annual guarantee from the Turkish Government of 140,000*l.*, being the interest at the rate of 7 per cent. upon a capital of 2,000,000*l.* The Directors of the Company venture to hope

that your Lordships will not allow the property of the Company to change hands without a stipulation that the new possessors shall undertake and perform all contracts which were binding on their predecessors. The rights of the Ruschuk and Varna Railway have recently been the subject of various communications to the Foreign Office, duly acknowledged and recognized, and your Lordships may perhaps be assisted in supporting those rights by the fact that they are pointedly protected in Article IX of the Treaty of San Stefano.

If the provisions of that clause became definitive, and if the new Bulgarian Government were unreservedly substituted for that of Turkey in its engagements towards the Varna Railway Company, we should be perfectly satisfied; but as the proceedings of new and petty States in such matters are often marked by a tendency to seek methods of escape from financial obligations, your Lordships will perhaps consider that the anxiety, which has led us to trouble you once more, is not wholly unreasonable.

I have, &c.
(For self and colleagues),
(Signed) H. WOLLASTON BLAKE, *Chairman.*

No. 28.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, July 5, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10, of the 18th June, Russians will change position, opening bridge at Ibraila if the change is approved by an official Commission. Russian Consul still supports claim for damages. I have communicated with the British Commission, and propose, with your Lordship's sanction, to place whole correspondence before the European Commission of the Danube.

No. 29.

Mr. Cross to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 5, 1878.*

LORD SALISBURY sent you the following telegram, *en clair*, from Berlin, on the 2nd instant:—

"Count Schouvaloff has informed me that he has the Emperor's authority to state that if the insurgents cease hostilities the Russian troops will not prevent them from returning to their villages, and will abstain from any act of repression.

"Orders will be given in this sense to the military authorities."

No. 30.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 46. Consular.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Dr. Dickson, respecting the state of the public health.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Dr. Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, June 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Dr. Mordtmann announced to the Board of Health yesterday that some fatal cases of Cholera have occurred at Philippopolis. The Board had no knowledge whatever of this event, and as at present it possesses no means of its own to investigate the matter, it requested the Russian Delegate to make inquiry, through his Embassy, in order to arrive at the truth of the report.

Dr. Mordtmann then proceeded to give the following account of the health of the refugees living in Stamboul. Their number, 50,000, had lately been increased by 4,000 more, come back from Egypt. The death-rate was 400 a-week, and amongst them he had observed a few who had perished from starvation. Cases of typhus still existed in some quarters of the town, but small-pox had entirely disappeared. The Government supplies had ceased, and the refugees clamoured for food and help. The hospitals for refugees established at Zurp-hané and Gul-hané are admirably kept; the diet is excellent and plentiful, and the patients carefully attended, so much so, that when cured they invariably refuse to go away. In contrast to this, no amount of persuasion will induce the refugees who fall sick in the other quarters of Stamboul to go into hospital.

Dr. Cabuzzi declares that nothing has yet been done to remove the refugees from those insalubrary localities of the sixth district, pointed out by him. The Austrian Lloyd steamers were freighted to carry away a part of the refugees from this city. One of them did convey 1,300 from Stamboul to Mersine, but the other boat has not shipped any passengers, in consequence of a sudden order received from the Austrian Government calling to Trieste all the transport ships belonging to the Lloyd Company. The agent of this Company here has therefore announced that refugees will no longer be received in their boats. None of these wretched people leave Constantinople at present by the Roumelian railway, because, having heard of the assembling of the Berlin Congress, they positively refuse to go away before knowing the result of the deliberations of that Assembly as to their fate. The number of refugees along the European shores of the Bosphorus has sensibly diminished, and no patients have been sent into hospital this week. Cases of typhus have become rare, but ague has shown itself, more especially at Arab-Djami, in Galata, and at Kassim-Pasha. Government supplies are now seldom issued to these people, and that only to women and children. From the 10th to the 17th instant the cases under treatment amongst the refugees along the European shore were 127. Of these eleven were of typhus, one of small-pox, and 115 of ordinary maladies.

Dr. Stekoulis reports that the condition of the refugees on the Asiatic shore has remained about the same time as last week, but the cases of typhus have become more numerous. Yet the mortality has not increased. He ascribes the increase of typhus to the gathering of refugees into the filthy infected stables of Scutari and Kadikioi, preparatory to their expedition into the provinces, and thus rekindling and keeping up the malady amongst them. Most of these people when once put into these filthy abodes remain in them. Hence the condemned stables of Sultan Murad in Kadikioi, and those of Bulbuldué at Scutari, after having been entirely cleared out, are now crowded again.

The subsidies given by the Government have ceased, and want of funds render the medical assistance very precarious.

The refugees established upon Alem Dagh are in a wretched condition, and 400 of them are lying ill without any help. Those at Fenerbatché remain as they were last week. They are fed by the International Committee, but the want of latrines is still greatly felt there.

The total number of the refugees along the Asiatic shore is 27,000, and the death-rate 21 per diem. From the 2nd to the 16th instant the number of refugee patients under treatment were 580. Of these 144 were cases of typhus, 122 of typhoid, 159 of dysentry, 75 of ague, and 110 of ordinary maladies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. D. DICKSON.

No. 31.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 644.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 5, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Consul Biliotti, dated to-day:—

"Laz forwarded for transmission to Her Majesty's Parliament and Lord Mayor a telegram stating that while laying quiet, having placed themselves under British protection, they see in papers Memorandum signed by Lord Salisbury and Count Schouvaloff, and which, if true, proves that their petitions have not been taken into consideration; that to avoid the sacrifice of their lives they have addressed, on 3rd instant, Petition to the Representatives of all Powers; that on 12th instant they will unfurl the British flag and, without fail, open fire against the Russians. They regret no one paid attention to the cries of 200,000 individuals, and trust that petitioned will not consent to their dying under British flag."

No. 32.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 645.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 5, 1878.*

PORTE has agreed to Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in a note which has given much satisfaction to Count Zichy. Porte will come to an understanding with Austria as to conditions, &c.

No. 33.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 646.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 5, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Blunt to-day:—

"I hear from good source that secret negotiations are carrying on between Mahommedans of south and those of north to frustrate any decision of Congress to subject any of their districts to Servia, Bulgaria, or Greece; that Latin Albanians are united with them in this feeling, and that encouragement to persevere in this determination is anticipated from Italy."

No. 34.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, July 5, 1878.*

NEWS received Wednesday by Austrian Consul and communicated by him to authorities that European Congress have agreed to Austrian occupation of Bosnia. Representative body telegraphed yesterday to the Porte to know what course it would pursue; no answer yet received. To-day town in tumult, shops closed, Mahommedans all in arms. They proceeded in a mass with few Orthodox Christians to the Pasha, and declared they would oppose the Austrians. This afternoon they have besieged the barracks and released all military prisoners, and insisted on the immediate resignation and departure of the commander of the troops, against whom there have long been complaints. Troops side with populace. Situation critical.

No. 35.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 6, 12·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July 6, 1878, 10 A.M.*

I SENT this morning at 2 o'clock following telegram to Constantinople:—

"Count Andrassy tells me Count Zichy has been told by Sultan's doctor that Sultan contemplates making Mahmoud Nedim Pasha Grand Vizier.

"You should warn Sultan that no conceivable appointment would be more obnoxious to Her Majesty's Government, and co-operate with Count Zichy in resisting it."

No. 36.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 6, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, July 6, 1878, 1 P.M.*

AUTHORITIES powerless. Mahommedans, headed by Hadji Loyo, have just seized powder magazine.

No. 37.

Mr. Vivian to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 224. Political.)
My Lord, *Alexandria, June 28, 1878.*

IN compliance with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 119 of the 21st instant, I have requested the chief official of the Suez Canal Company to convey to the staff of the Company, and especially to M. Ducherf, the acknowledgments of Her Majesty's Government for their uniform courtesy and obliging assistance on the occasion of the passage of our Indian transports through the Canal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 38.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 351.)
My Lord, *Rome, July 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith articles, with translations, from the "Opinione" and "Riforma" relative to the decision of the Congress to confide the military and civil administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Extract from the "Riforma" of July 2, 1878.

(Translation.)

AFTER the timid reticence of the "Diritto," nothing was wanting to the present Ministry but the approbation of the "Opinione" in order to render still more evident the condemnation which the policy of the Italian Government at the Congress is destined to receive from the country.

That the "Opinione" should in fact say that Italy at Berlin should not speak, should not move, should do nothing, is natural; it is natural that it (the "Opinione") should also consider that Italian interests are uninjured, after the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the part of Austria—it, the organ of that party which, in regard to foreign policy, was accustomed when in office to receive inspirations and orders from abroad to bow the head and to move the hand according to the will of others.

But this same approbation ought to make the present Ministry perceive that they have committed a great error—one of those errors for which the country has the right to call them to account.

Perhaps the present Ministry has believed that the occupation, which it is wished to represent as temporary, of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was a burden which Austria undertook with regret? Perhaps the present Ministry did not know by whom the insurrection in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been excited and maintained for so long a time? They did not know who furnished arms to the insurgents? Are they so simple and so primitive in politics as not to have perceived in the pretended refusals of Austria the indication of a desire long brooded and astutely dissimulated? Have they not seen in what manner were tranquillized by Andrassy and Tisza the fears of the Magyars?

Nevertheless they were bound to know and to understand all this, because the proofs of these facts and the suspicion of these intentions are to be found amongst the documents in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. If the Ministry knew and understood, but still, after that, continued to believe that the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina would not injure our interests, it must be acknowledged that they have formed a strange idea of our interests, and an idea not less strange of the duty which the national Government had towards all parts of the nation.

Now, we do not say that Italy should absolutely oppose an occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina decided upon by all the Powers. But was there not another means of defending our interests?

What other means there were a Minister for Foreign Affairs acquainted with the

Italian political situation was bound to know. But since, it appears, that Count Corti has resisted in vain at the Consulta before proceeding to Berlin, we have only to publish what is sent to us from Berlin by a most influential personage. It was not our intention to publish these facts, but it appears to us that in the present condition of things silence is not possible.

"*Berlin, June 27, 1878.*

"I announced to you from a certain source that in the sitting of to-morrow England will propose that Austria should be allowed to re-establish order in Bosnia and Herzegovina by an indefinite occupation, and that Germany will strongly support the proposal, while Russia consents.

"The thing has been already decided in the private Conferences; already all the diplomatic circles are informed of it; and on that account much surprise is caused by the inaction of Count Corti, who has not moved a step in view of this eventuality, which was expected since the first day of the Congress.

"The surprise is all the greater amongst those who are acquainted with the past diplomatic action between the Italian Government and the Governments of Berlin and London.

"I probably only write to you things with which you are already acquainted, but in this moment it will perhaps not be useless to repeat them.

"Since the beginning of the Bosnia-Herzegovina insurrection, excited as you well know by Austria, while the Magyars were agitating themselves by a fear of the predominance of the Slavs in the Empire, and were tranquillized by the words of Andrassy, in whom, as a Magyar, the Hungarian deputies had confidence, the Italian Government protested against the foreseen occupation at Berlin, and also as I know, in London, declaring that in view of the topographical conditions of the country, it could not permit that Austria should become so much more powerful on the other side of the Adriatic. At Berlin, and also as I know, in London, they did not blame the Italian Government, and said to Italy, 'take Albania.' Italy replied that Albania was not what she desired; and particularly from London, this I give you for certain, it was again replied to Italy, 'take it in any case, c'est toujours un gage.'

"At Berlin then, they believed that Italy had entered into this order of ideas, the more so when it was known in well informed circles that the Italian Government intended to hasten, without appearing to do so, and without saying so, its armaments.

"Count De Launay knows all this, I can assure you; that indeed is most natural; and if Count Corti had searched in your Ministry for Foreign Affairs, he would have found documents relative to what I tell you; in any case, is it possible that Count De Launay, after that Count Corti had arrived at Berlin, should not have spoken to him about this.

"I repeat to you, therefore, that the inaction of Count Corti in this question has caused the greatest surprise, and Italy has appeared to wish to renounce respecting it, advantages which no one thought of contesting to her.

"The ground not having been prepared, it is foreseen that in the sitting of to-morrow, Count Corti will not make objections, or he will make them in such a way that they will not be taken into consideration.

"Of all this, I can guarantee to you entire exactitude."

The person who sends us this information is such, that we cannot have the slightest doubt as to his assertions.

There were means, therefore, for counterbalancing Austrian influence in the East, and they were considered by the Depretis Ministry. Why did not the present Ministry take account of them.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Extract from the "Opinione" of July 1, 1878.

(Translation.)

OCCUPATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.—WE have already, in our yesterday's number, briefly expressed our disapprobation of the deplorable events at Venice. These disorders were the work of a few, and, as we have already declared, it would be most unjust to make a city responsible for them in which respect for the law and a love of order and repose have always equalled the valour and patriotism of the inhabitants. At Venice was signed peace between Austria and Italy, a peace sincere and in harmony with the interests of two States which have such important relations; and Venice cannot have wished to disturb these good relations. We feel sure that the Venetians fully share the

disapprobation of these proceedings, which have been shown by every city and province of Italy. The Government, the Parliament, and the country all agree in severe condemnation of the demonstration of the other evening, and of the excesses arising from it. It is not during the sittings of Italian Representatives at the Berlin Congress that we can permit the pressure of advocates of extreme views. If our diplomacy is to be respected and powerful abroad, it must be sustained by the good sense of the people of Italy, and the latter must remember that a great nation, strongly constituted, does not defend its interests by street demonstrations, but by the voice of its diplomatists, representatives of a Government derived from a parliamentary majority.

We do not wish to dwell on these unpleasant acts, because there is no reason to suppose that they can become a diplomatic incident. They form, however, a useful lesson for our Government, who must have perceived the dangers of allowing full liberty to demonstrations of whatever nature. The Government must raise the prestige of authority, and convince every one that it is not permitted to disturb violently the action of Government, and to hazard public peace at home and our legitimate influence abroad.

This being stated, it remains for us to examine impartially the action of Italy in the Congress of Berlin. Our Representatives have supported the principles to which the Italian nation owes its own existence, and which it cannot abandon without placing itself in contradiction with its own past. But, at the same time, our Representatives have done a work of conciliation, because such was really their duty, in conformity with the wishes of Parliament and of the majority of Italians.

An important question has been brought forward recently, that of the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Does this resolution of the Congress announced by telegraph injure Italian interests? Does it justify a demand for compensation? These are the questions which during the past two days have been repeated, and to which an answer does not seem to us difficult, although the point at issue is important.

There is no doubt that the Italian Government will be right in making its reserves respecting a definitive occupation of these provinces, and if we can believe the telegrams, these reserves in view of future eventualities will not be wanting. But for the present only a provisional occupation has been decided on, and it is expressly said that Austria-Hungary shall keep troops there until the provinces are completely organized. This was the mission allotted to Austria before the war, and the Austrian Government showed much disinclination to undertake it. Austria cannot derive any advantage from this occupation, and makes an experiment of which the results cannot easily be foreseen. We see no reason why Italy should be uneasy. Austria exercises in the East a mission of civilization amongst various races and languages. She is a bulwark against Russian supremacy which would constitute a danger and menace to Italy as to all other European Powers. As for thinking that the provisional occupation of Bosnia can affect our interests on the Adriatic, this seems to us a very distant danger. In view of the work to be done in Bosnia by Austria, it is difficult to believe that the latter can establish herself at once at the Adriatic in a manner to cause us alarm.

Austria is destined by her geographical and political condition to counterbalance Russia in the East, and we ought not to be displeased because this equilibrium is established between two Powers, each of which could injure us by its absolute and undeniable preponderance.

Nor must we forget that the present solution of Eastern affairs cannot be definitive. It is a new step towards the real settlement of the question which we hope may be solved in course of time without new wars. It is a great benefit to have prevented a bloody war which seemed inevitable. Italy will have the glory of having contributed to this work of peace. Her reservations for the future are clear and appreciated, and we believe that no Power in the present negotiations will have renounced its own liberty of action whenever new complications may arise, or a new step may be taken towards the definite settlement of the Eastern question. But it appears to us opportune to observe that, so far as we can judge, Italian interests will emerge uninjured from the present negotiations. Such is our impression at present. Should new incidents or news change our opinion, we shall return to the topic.

No. 39.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 539.)

My Lord, *Paris, July 6, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 436 of the 24th of May last, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Halim Pasha, the uncle of the Khedive of Egypt, called upon me this afternoon, and told me that he had just come to Paris from Vichy.

He had been drinking the waters there, but being assured by his physician that his health stood in no great need of them, he had cut his course short, and intended to go to London, to look after his private affairs, the day after to-morrow.

He expressed great satisfaction with the progress of the Commission of Inquiry in Egypt, and said that if it went on as it had begun it would save the Khedive and the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 40.

List of Places at which Russians contracted for Bread, and Quantities required.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 8.)

Places.	Quantities.	Places.	Quantities.
	Pouds.		Pouds.
San Stefano	62,750	Starkoui	1,800
Yurin Bourgas	103,500	Hirsei	1,800
Silivria	2,700	Malgara	1,800
Spekli	2,475	Ouzoun Keupru	2,250
Rodosto	18,450	Ypsala	25,625
Tekorlu	13,500	Yenikeuj	1,800
Keshan	20,250	Dedé-Agatch	4,050
Hadrianboul	49,500	Demotica	13,500

1 pond = 37½ lbs.

No. 41.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 819.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 29, 1878.*

M. D. BRATIANO, who has been detained at Constantinople by bad weather, and does not leave for Bucharest until to-morrow, called to-day to take leave of me. He informed me that he had been received by the Sultan, who seems to have made the same favourable impression upon him that His Majesty makes upon all those who are admitted to his presence. M. Bratiano told me that His Majesty had spoken most kindly of the Roumanians, and had expressed his earnest desire that in future amicable and intimate relations should exist between Turkey and Roumania, as such relations, His Majesty was persuaded, would be to the welfare and true interests of both countries. M. Bratiano added that he should have much satisfaction in informing his Government of the very friendly feelings shown by the Sultan towards Roumania.

M. Bratiano said that he had given up all hope of inducing the Porte to agree to the Convention which he had proposed, and he did not appear to attach much importance to the failure of his mission. He said that all he now required the Turkish Government to do was to give such instructions to its Commissioner in Roumania as would enable him to come to an understanding with the Roumanian authorities for sending back the Turkish prisoners still in the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 42.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, July 7, 1878.*

ASTERABAD Agent having heard that Russian troops had landed at Chikiler, sent a confidential agent there, who reported landing of five regiments of infantry and ten guns, and arrival of 1,000 Cossacks by land from the North. Destination supposed by Turcomans to be Akhal and Merve. Communicated to Viceroy and Lord Napier.

No. 43.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajévo, July 7, 1878.*

I TELEGRAPHED yesterday to your Lordship at Berlin, protest of population against foreign occupation of Bosnia. To-day agitation continues; shops still closed, but no excesses committed. Hadji Loyo was received (?) yesterday by Government and pardoned. Asiatic troops expected here (?). Hafiz Pasha, from Kosovo, appointed Commander in Bosnia.

No. 44.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 820.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 23, 1878.*

JUDGING from the information which has reached me from various sources, it is, I presume, certain that the provinces to the south of the Balkans will not form part of the proposed Bulgarian Principality, but will remain under the direct sovereignty of the Sultan. Such being the case, I would venture to suggest to your Lordship that an attempt might be made to induce the Russians to refrain from attacking the Mussulmans who are now in arms in the Rhodope Mountains. They have been termed "insurgents," but the name is unjustly and wrongfully applied to them. They have not risen against their own Government, nor against any lawfully-constituted authority; they are only defending their property, the honour of their women, and their lives. They have no wish to descend into the plains to attack the Russians and Bulgarians; they simply seek to preserve themselves from the shocking treatment that has been inflicted upon the Mussulman inhabitants of the low country, who have been massacred in large numbers, whose wives and daughters have been outraged, and whose villages have been ruthlessly destroyed.

The Russians are about, it is understood, to attack them in force, and should they be defeated, which may be the case, as their arms and ammunition are running short, there would probably not only be a terrible massacre of the inhabitants of the mountains who have risen in arms, but of the vast number of unfortunate fugitives from the plains, chiefly old men, women, and children, who have sought their protection from Russian and Bulgarian violence.

It is probable, if your Lordship should think it expedient for me to do so, that I could obtain an undertaking at once from the Pomaks, and others in arms with them, that they will remain entirely on the defensive, and only resist attacks which may be made upon them. From the accounts that I have received from the Rhodope Mountains, it would appear that the Christians who inhabit these and the adjoining districts have not been in any way molested or ill-treated. On the contrary, they have sent me certificates stating that their villages and property have been respected, and that they have every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the Pomaks towards them.

It would, I think, make a very favourable impression upon the Mussulman population of Roumelia, if Her Majesty's Government could be instrumental in putting an end to the present needless bloodshed, and could save the unfortunate refugees in Mount Rhodope from the fate which awaits them should the Russians succeed in putting an end to the rising, and handing over those who have been concerned in it, as they probably would do, to the tender mercies of the Bulgarians.

Mr. St. Clair, who is now with the Pomaks, and appears to have considerable influence over them, has more than once addressed letters to me, and I have no doubt that I could communicate with him indirectly, if it were desirable to make some attempt to obtain the undertaking I have suggested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 45.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 821.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 24, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship by the messenger two despatches from Acting Consul E. Calvert, dated the 17th instant. They contain a further account of the cruel treatment to which the Mussulmans of the Province of Adrianople are still exposed from the Bulgarians, and afford additional evidence, if any were required, that the Russian authorities connive at, if they do not actually encourage, this shocking persecution of a peaceable and unoffending population.

It has been my duty for many months past to send your Lordship similar reports from the British Consuls and Consular Agents in various parts of Turkey. I have done so generally without comment, as I could scarcely trust myself to express all the indignation I feel at this barbarous attempt to exterminate a whole population, or to drive them out from their homes to die through want and disease, and at the deliberate persecution of all but one particular religious sect. Had such reports as those sent by Mr. E. Calvert been received from only one source, however trustworthy, your Lordship might have thought them exaggerated or untrue. It is difficult to believe that a Christian race, whose supposed virtues and good qualities had created for them in England a sympathy and admiration which encouraged Russia to enter upon a great war, ostensibly in their behalf, could be guilty of such crimes as those attributed to them; nor is it easy to credit statements which tend to prove that the authorities of a civilized nation should tolerate and provoke such enormities, and that even those who had been sent to carry out the work of humanity should take part in them.

But, unhappily, it is not from Mr. Calvert alone that such accounts have been received. They come from our official Agents at Philippopolis, Dédéagatch, Rodosto, Gallipoli, Bourgas, Varna, and elsewhere, as well as from Adrianople, and are more than confirmed by information which reaches me from private sources of credit from all parts of Turkey in Europe.

When the Russians crossed the Balkans last summer and, disarming the Mussulmans whom they had induced to submit by promises of justice and protection, had handed over their weapons to the Bulgarians, a scene of indiscriminate slaughter and devastation ensued, such as had not been known since the most barbarous times. The whole of the country invaded by the Russians was laid waste, and the towns and villages sacked and destroyed; the fertile valley of the Tundja, one of the finest and most prosperous regions in Europe, was devastated; the Mahommedan inhabitants of the invaded districts, who were unable to save themselves by flight, were outraged and massacred, and even the Jews, who under Turkish rule had enjoyed religious freedom and civil equality, shared the same fate.

Information of similar deeds of ruthless cruelty and violence reached the Embassy from the country occupied by the Russians to the north of the Balkans. These results of the Russian invasion, undertaken in the cause of humanity and civilization, made a painful impression upon European public opinion. The Russian Government was anxious to clear itself of the guilt of having participated in, or encouraged, the horrible deeds laid to its charge.

Colonel Wellesley, at the request of the Emperor, conveyed to Her Majesty's Government a formal denial of their truth. Newspaper correspondents who accompanied the Russian armies were induced to declare publicly that they had never witnessed the cruelties and misdeeds attributed to the Russians, and did not believe in them. It was difficult, if not impossible, to get at the real truth in the provinces actually occupied by the invaders; but such was not the case in the districts which they had abandoned. Consul Blunt, at my request, made a searching inquiry on the subject in the Valley of the Tundja, visiting the places which had been laid waste and whose inhabitants had been butchered, and taking evidence from all classes of persons, Mahommedans and Christians alike. His exhaustive and impartial report, borne out by ample testimony, is in the

archives of the Foreign Office, and must put an end to all question as to the participation of the Russians in the horrors that ensued on their descent into the country to the south of the Balkans, and their immediate responsibility for them.

An attempt has been made to excuse, if not to justify, the massacres of the Mussulmans, and the outrages committed upon them, by attributing them to the natural revenge of a long-oppressed race, and by placing them amongst the ordinary consequences of war. As to the first excuse, it may be observed that, if they were justifiable acts of vengeance for long suffering, why were they extended to the Jews and others, who had no share in oppressing the Bulgarians? As to the second excuse, it may with some confidence be asserted that for many centuries no European nation, however backward in civilization, has permitted its armies, or encouraged the people that it may have excited to rebellion against its sovereign or against the governing race, to commit such savage deeds of cruelty and outrages upon a peaceable population as have been perpetrated by the Russians and their Bulgarian allies upon the Mussulmans of Turkey. The Turks, in all their wars and conquests, have never been guilty of anything approaching to them.

But, admitting that whilst a state of war existed, and the Russians were advancing as conquerors, and when the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians, to revenge the excesses and cruelties committed upon the Mussulmans, fell upon the Bulgarians, the massacres and outrages perpetrated upon the Turkish population were deserved, and could not have been prevented by the Russian civil and military authorities, what justification, it may be asked, is there for the shameful treatment of the Mahommedans, and the persecution of Mussulmans, Catholics, Greeks, Jews, and others not of the Russo-Bulgarian Church, since the war has ceased, and the Russians have occupied the greater part of Turkey in Europe, and have established a civil and military administration in it? It must be remembered that the deliberate massacres of the Mussulman population, the outrages upon their women, the devastation of their fields and their homes, and their expulsion from Roumelia, have taken place since hostilities were suspended and the war was virtually brought to an end, by the signature of the Bases of Peace at Kyzoulik in the month of January last by the Turkish Plenipotentiaries. It is also since that time that the spirit of persecution has chiefly shown itself against all those who are not of the Bulgarian faith. It must, likewise, be borne in mind that the persecution of the Mussulman population, and its expulsion and slaughter, have been extended to districts merely occupied temporarily by the Russians, and which, were even the Treaty of San Stefano to be carried out in its entirety, would not be included in the proposed Bulgarian Principality.

Can it be alleged that the Russians are not responsible for these crimes and misdeeds? Had they only been committed in distant districts, where the direct authority of the Russians did not reach, some excuse might be urged for Russia; although a Power which has ruthlessly invaded the territories of a neighbouring nation, and, invoking the spirit of revolution, has called upon the most ignorant and barbarous portion of its population to rise against its rulers, furnishing them with the means of doing so, must be held responsible, to a great extent, for the consequences which must inevitably ensue. But what can be said when they are daily perpetrated in large towns like Adrianople and Philippopolis, and in districts in which the Russians have established their civil and military administration, and have the power of protecting life and property, and of preventing outrages, murder, injustice, and persecution?

It has been asserted by those who would palliate the conduct of the Russians, that they took no part in the "atrocities" committed by the Bulgarians, and cannot, therefore, be held responsible for them. But such is not the case, as the official reports that I have forwarded to your Lordship prove. They were Russian officers who employed the Bulgarian police at Philippopolis to carry off Mussulman women and girls to be the victims of their lusts. Cossacks have accompanied and assisted Bulgarians in the destruction of Mussulman villages, and in the massacre of the fugitives from them. The Russian authorities have sanctioned and encouraged the destruction of Turkish property in all the towns and villages they have occupied, to the very gates of the capital. They have loaded over the houses in the Turkish quarters to the troops for firewood; they have defiled the mosques, and turned them to vile uses; they have desecrated the Mussulman graves, broken up the tombstones, and turned the cemeteries into public gardens and places of amusement, compelling the unfortunate Mussulmans themselves to do the work.

Not only have the Russian authorities placed no check on the shameful and savage deeds of the Bulgarians, or taken any steps to protect their victims, or to do justice, but they have refused to receive complaints against their perpetrators, and have even punished with the lash and imprisonment those who have ventured to make them. When, as in the case described by Mr. Calvert in his despatch No. 23, unarmed Mussulman fugitives,

placed by the Russians themselves under the care of the Bulgarian police, have been robbed, outraged, and plundered by their protectors, the Russian authorities knowing that these crimes have been committed almost within the sight of Consular Agents, have thought it necessary to take some notice of them, their authors have been arrested for three or four days, and then released without further punishment, to renew their outrages upon the miserable Mahommedans. The Bulgarians named by the Russians to public offices, and whose duty it should be to administer justice, to maintain order, and to protect the lives and property of all classes, have been in many cases, as your Lordship will find by Mr. Calvert's despatch No. 24, and by other official Reports from our Consular Agents, men of infamous character, some of whom had been convicted of most atrocious crimes. A well-known brigand, one Petco, is employed, it would appear, by the Russians, as the Chief of bands of Bulgarians, who plunder and massacre the Mahommedans. Bodies of Christians, bearing white flags, move about the district of Rodosto occupied by the Russians, and carry desolation and slaughter amongst the Mussulman villages. It is the cruel treatment which the Mussulmans have received that has driven the inhabitants of the plains into the Rhodope Mountains, and has induced the Pomaks to rise in arms to defend their lives, their property, and the honour of their women.

It would be a needless and painful task to collect, from the different Reports that have been addressed to this Embassy, the numberless cases of outrages, cruelty, rape, and massacre committed during the last few months by the Russians and Bulgarians upon the Mussulmans of Roumelia. It would scarcely be too much to affirm that they exceed in horror and amount the accumulated misdeeds of four centuries of Turkish misrule. Never have the Turks, even in the worst days of their history, been guilty of such indiscriminate slaughter, such shocking outrages on women and female children, such universal destruction of property, and such general religious persecution. The deeds of the Bashi-Bazouks at Batuk and in other Bulgarian villages, immensely exaggerated by thoughtless, designing, or unscrupulous men, and the consequence of a panic which subsequent events have shown to have been justified, were sufficient to arouse public opinion in England to such an extent against Turkey, that a war unparalleled for its horrors, and, perhaps, for its consequences, has been the result. Yet the "atrocities" committed by the Russians and Bulgarians, without cause or reason, upon an inoffensive and defenceless population, upon old men, women, and children, have passed almost unnoticed, have excited but little public sympathy for the victims, and have not affected the character for religion and humanity of the nation that has been the cause of them. It can scarcely be believed that this indifference should have arisen from the fact that the victims are Mussulmans. Yet when the whole of the European press unites in an outcry against the Turkish Government, and demands justice and vengeance, because houses in a Greek village in insurrection are injured, its church plate stolen, or some of its inhabitants killed, and almost passes over in silence the shocking cruelties perpetrated by the Russians and Bulgarians upon the Mahommedans of Turkey, it would seem that public opinion is not altogether uninfluenced by this consideration. Whether such be the case or not, the Reports that have been sent to the Foreign Office from impartial and authentic sources will remain as records of the manner in which Russia has carried out the work of civilization and humanity, which she claimed to execute as the representative of Europe and of civilization.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 46.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 822.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a curious and interesting letter addressed to me by Mr. St. Clair, who appears, according to his own account, to be Dictator and Commander-in-chief of the Pomaks and others who are in arms in the Rhodope Mountains and adjoining districts, to defend themselves against Russian and Bulgarian outrages and ill-treatment.

I have not answered Mr. St. Clair's letter, but should your Lordship think fit to act upon the suggestion contained in my despatch No. 820 of the 23rd June, this communication from him might afford me the opportunity of making an effort to put a stop to the bloodshed which is taking place in Roumelia in consequence of the Russian attacks upon the Pomaks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 46.

Mr. St. Clair to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Camp, Kara Kulussi, June 15, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a document prepared and signed spontaneously by the people of the disturbed districts, the contents of which will prove to your Excellency that the so-called insurrection is far from being revolutionary or disorderly in its nature. The fact that a purely Mussulman population has elected of its own free will a Christian as their, you may say, Dictator, speaks volumes in refutation of any accusation of fanaticism amongst these people, who certainly are the staunchest Mussulmans in Turkey. I may further add that their obedience to my orders is so implicit, that, even after the burning of over twenty of our villages by the Russo-Bulgarians, I prevented them from falling upon the plains (which was easy) and retaliating. I further may say that, although the enemy took and crucified several old men in Bagal under our eyes, murdered women and children, seven prisoners taken red-handed by us have been handed over to the Turkish authorities to be tried by common criminal courts as common criminals; that my greatest efforts are directed to organize and discipline the people under arms, and to punish and disarm the remnants of the Batak Bashi-Bazouks, some of whom still resist my authority, but whom I will have disarmed and punished ere this letter reaches your Excellency; in fact, with God's aid, I have hopes to save these poor people, if England will but see the real state of things and aid us honestly.

I now have it as a duty to inform your Excellency that, as my full powers and jurisdiction is worded so as to bind me to compliance with the Sheriah, that, therefore, I have no connection whatever with any subversive or other Committee in Constantinople or elsewhere; that the power I wield is only temporary, and that I will abdicate such the day that a legal authority is sent to replace me: provided such is neither Bulgarian, nor Russian, nor Greek. Against any annexation to Bulgaria, Russia, or Greece, I will stand armed, and resist to the last.

I further beg your Excellency to make known to the Sultan that I and the people I govern presently recognize him as our liege lord, and that, although Her Most Gracious Majesty's subject, I do homage to the Sultan in the name of these people; humbly expecting Her Majesty's pardon for so doing, on the plea of having been forced to accept this position by a previous word given and the interests of humanity and justice.

As your Excellency may know through Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, to which I telegraphed, my centre has been attacked by a column of Russo-Bulgarians with artillery. The enemy succeeded in burning some twenty villages, but was ultimately stopped by me, as soon as I could reach the positions with hurriedly-gathered reserves.

At present some subversive agents attempt to make the people believe that England is in favour of a change in the Throne. This letter, I hope, will reach your Excellency in time to re-assure the Porte as to the loyalty of these people, as I will treat such agents with the utmost severity. My object being peace and order, and with God's aid and your Excellency's protection, I hope to succeed. But, Sir, if there is to be a Congress, do impress the Russians with the fact that to permit Bulgarian banditti to attack us, burn our villages and massacre our children, in order to execute a Treaty which England and Europe have refused to acknowledge as valid, and the non-execution of which until the end of negotiations has been promised by Russia herself. That the Russians headed the Bulgarian columns, and that their troops partook in these outrages I can certify, and so can the prisoners which I have handed over to the civil authorities at Dari-Dere. As to all newspaper nonsense on this subject, I warn your Excellency against such as untrue. The inclosed document speaks for itself; it is perfectly loyal, and shows to the world that the so-called Committees of Constantinople are not in connection with us.

The case of the people I have the honour to govern and command is this: in case of war, unless England aids us with arms, ammunition, and a few battalions—and we will be able to make a powerful diversion, especially my right wing, which holds outposts over Demotica and near Adrianople. I can place over 100,000 men at England's disposal in such a case; but, Sir, I must have some arms at once, because if, God forbid, the Congress ends in war, I cannot hold out with an unarmed population against hosts, and now opposed to me are 20,000 men; if, therefore, I am attacked seriously before any aid can reach me, as certainly will be the case, I run the risk of seeing fearful massacres committed, and being powerless to prevent them; thus England's good name will greatly suffer, and our plans of campaign be defeated. There is no other way of binding over the Russians to respect this kind of armistice, but to do as they do. They send their troops to attack us in aid of the Bulgarians in peace times. Why should you not lend a few battalions at

Kavala and Karagatch, that is to say on my soil at my request? I hold this land in the name of these people, and the people hold it by arms; this is, therefore, neutral soil, on which you can as much and as legally land troops as the Russians can hold garrison in Adrianople or Philippopolis.

I am above all in need of officers and non-commissioned officers. There are Poles in Constantinople. Could they be sent, it would do me great good; inclosed is a letter for Admiral Commerell, who is near us, and in case of need may aid us, as I sincerely hope England will do if there is war; five battalions and three batteries would enable me to clear the plains as far as Shipka, and possibly cut off all communications of the Russian army around Constantinople and Adrianople. I entreat your Excellency not to leave this to chance, or worse, by trusting to Russo *fides*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HYDAYCH (ST. CLAIR),
Commander-in-chief in the Rhodope.

I have to add that the enemy is concentrating and preparing for a serious attack, and that our hopes are in England's firm conduct.

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

Document signed by the Insurgents in the Rhodope District.

(Traduction.)

LE but de cet écrit est le suivant :—

"En attendant l'arrivée du Colonel Hidayet Bey, envoyé par la Sublime Porte pour protéger les Musulmans qui prirent les armes contre les Russes dans la Peninsule des Balkans afin de sauvegarder leur religion et leur honneur, nous sommes prêts à faire tous les sacrifices pour notre patrie et notre nation, et nous declarons que jusqu'à l'arrivée d'une autorité de la part de notre Gouvernement, tous ceux qui commettront des desordres seront punis et nous ne reconnaîtrons pas ceux qui agissent contrairement à notre sainte loi.

"En preuve de quoi nous avons delivré le present Acte en forme de procès-verbal entre les mains du susdit Commandant."

Le 4/16 Juin, 1878.

No. 47.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 823.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 24, 1878.*

IT appears that early last year the Sultan established a kind of branch of the University of Galata Serai, to be supported from his privy purse, for the instruction of young men of different creeds in political economy, public law, finance, and cognate subjects connected with government and administration. Some fifteen pupils were admitted to it, and His Majesty promised that when they had finished their studies, and had passed the necessary examinations they should, at once, receive public employment. Owing to the war and the misfortunes that have befallen this country during the last year, the scheme has not been as successful as it would have been under other circumstances; and I am told that there are now only eight or nine students who attend the lectures. But His Majesty informs me that it is his intention to carry out his plan, and to make this institution a kind of "Ecole de Droit," increasing considerably the number of pupils. One of the instructors in political economy is Ohannes Effendi, an Armenian of good character and reputation, and a member of the Council of State, who has passed some time in France and England, and speaks the languages of both countries.

The fact that the Sultan himself conceived the idea of founding this institution out of his own purse is a proof of His Majesty's real desire to educate his people, and to prepare men for the discharge of public duties. It is to be hoped that he will persevere firmly in his good intentions in this and other matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 48.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 825.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a petition from the inhabitants of Jenidje and Vardar, protesting against annexation to Bulgaria; and also translation of a telegram, dated from Gumushane, from the inhabitants of the Vilayet of Erzeroum, protesting against annexation to Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 48.

Petition from Yenidjé Vardar.

(Traduction en résumé.)

LES Soussignés protestent contre l'incorporation de leur province à la nouvelle Bulgarie. Ils disent que les Musulmans et les Chrétiens qui y résident possédent une écrasante majorité sur les Bulgares; qu'ils ont de la capacité administrative, dont ces derniers sont privés, et qu'enfin il est contraire à toute justice qu'on soumette une telle majorité à une minorité ignorante et inepte. Ils ajoutent qu'ils désirent rester sous le sceptre de Sa Majesté le Sultan, et prient que leur demande soit prise en considération.

Le $\frac{13}{25}$, 1878 (*sic.*)

(Suivent les signatures des habitants de Yenidjé Vardar.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 48.

Telegram from the Inhabitants of Gumush-hané.

(Traduction.)

A l'adresse du Congrès par le canal de l'Ambassade Anglaise de Constantinople.

EN conformité de l'une des clauses du dernier Traité, la ville d'Erzeroum, à l'instar d'autres forteresses de Roumélie, bien que son état de défense fût complet, devait être évacuée, à la condition que les autorités civiles restassent à leurs places et que les Russes y fussent reçus en Moussafirs (hôtes). Ainsi, à la suite des assurances données par la Sublime Porte que les divisions de troupes formées par l'habileté reconnue du Commandant-en-chef resteraient à Erzeroum, et en conformité d'un Protocole en dix Articles signé par les Délégués des deux Commandants, nous avons reçu les Russes à Erzeroum et nous leur avons donné l'hospitalité. Cependant notre angoisse fut grande à l'expulsion de nos autorités, et les mauvais traitements qui s'ensuivirent forcèrent les habitants Musulmans et Chrétiens d'émigrer et de se disperser, restant exposés à toutes les vicissitudes. Si les Russes restent encore un peu dans notre pays, qui comprend Kars, Erdehan, Bayazid, Batoum, et Erzeroum, ces villes seront détruites et les habitants en mourront de faim.

C'est pourquoi nous faisons part de nos angoisses au Congrès qui est composé des Plénipotentiaires des Grandes Puissances, et nous espérons de sa justice qu'il fera en sorte que les Russes quittent notre pays, et que nous restions comme par le passé sous le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan. Nous sollicitons une réponse dans l'espace de dix jours.

Arrivé à Gumush-hané le $\frac{10}{22}$ *Juin; expédié le* $\frac{11}{23}$ *Juin*, 1878.

(Suivent les signatures des fondés-de-pouvoir des habitants Musulmans et Chrétiens du Vilayet d'Erzeroum, et des Livas de Kars, Bayazid et Erdehan.)

No. 49.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 826.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 25, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 817 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to inclose translation of a letter from Iskender Pasha to Redjib Pasha, respecting the pacification of Thessaly, which was forwarded to me by Mr. Blunt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD

Inclosure in No. 49.

General Iskender to Redjeb Pasha.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.)

Larisse, le $\frac{24 \text{ Mai}}{5 \text{ Juin}}$ 1878.

LE nombre des personnes qui rentrent et demandent grâce monte à 263. Ils appartiennent aux villages de Yeraeul, Mavril, Paraskeri, Tchoha, Zahnadjé, Lidentchó, Apro-Kilissa, Balassova, Shezmé, Ezmoula, Achamoushi, Aya-Yorghi, Sendjé, Baneshi, Calapont, Perchonic, Colcot, Meraiata, Zurie, et des districts de Grevena, Serfitchu et Massona. En outre, grâce aux mesures prises on obtint la délivrance du fils de Rustem Aga, de Domenik, qui avait été capturé par les bandits dans le district d'Alussona, et que ceux-ci, au nombre de dix-sept, fussent à leur tour, rentrés à l'obéissance.

Dans le combat qui eut lieu l'autre jour, on reprit aux bandits trois personnes que ceux-ci avaient capturés et 2,000 moutons. Les bandits se trouvent maintenant du côté de Metchove. Quinze d'entre eux portent le costume militaire Grec, et quant au reste, ce sont des Albanais et des Valaques, qui ne manqueront pas bientôt de mettre bas les armes et de demander grâce.

Ce qui précède ressort du contenu de quatre Rapports datés du 28 Mai de la part du Commandant de Trihala qui, en même temps, fait savoir que les fameux Chefs de bande, Stoza et Marpolun, ayant manifesté, à l'homme qui leur avait été délégué par les Majors Mohamet et Mouhieddin Bey, de Pera, et les membres de Conseil Taushe et Taki, le désir de se soumettre, il convient de leur envoyer des sauf conduits.

En outre, il ressort d'un journal du Caïmacam et du Commandant militaire d'Alassone, qu'il y a actuellement autour du village de Livadia sept bandes errantes de vingt à cinquante hommes chaque, qui se recrutent et augmentent de plus en plus, et qui, ayant enlevé le fils de Dino, un des notables de Coktoplélos, en demandent 40,000 piastres de rançon, et que comme il n'y a pas assez de troupes pour mettre fin à ces désordres, ils prient qu'on leur expédie encore un bataillon.

En concluant, j'ai l'honneur de rapporter que son Excellence Saib Pasha, devant partir aujourd'hui de Monastir, par voie de Grebiné et de Serfidjé, j'achemine ce jour même à Serfidjé le Lieutenant-Colonel Rustem Bey avec un escadron de cavalerie, en conformité des ordres de son Excellence.

(Signé) ISKENDER, *Général de Brigade, Lieutenant du Commandant.*

No. 50.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 827.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by M. Hagop Matteosian, the Vekil, or head, of the Protestant community, complaining of the cruel treatment by the Bulgarians of the Protestants of the village of Kayoli-déré. Your Lordship will perceive that the Bulgarian Bishop of Slimia informed his flock in that village that "Protestantism is no longer to exist in Bulgaria," and appears to have encouraged them to persecute and maltreat those who profess that faith.

It is probable that if the direct authority of the Porte be withdrawn from Bulgaria and the provinces to the south of the Balkans, the Protestant movement, which, chiefly owing to the labours of the American missionaries, had made considerable progress, and promised to enlighten and civilize the Bulgarians by education, will be speedily put a stop

to, and that those who have opened schools and taught the people, and those who have profited by their teaching, will be driven from the country. This will be, in my opinion, a real misfortune to the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 50.

M. Matteosian to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, June 25, 1878.*

THE village of Kayoli-déré, eight hours from Adrianople, is Bulgarian.

Lately Bishop Sarafin, of Slivnia, was there and exhorting the people, he said: "Protestantism is no longer to exist in Bulgaria." The consequences of this was the "Orthodox" Bulgarians set upon the Protestants, beat them, destroyed their fields and plundered their houses, while the affrighted families ran as soon as possible to Adrianople to save their lives. The villagers, however, caught a few of the poor people and treated them very shamefully. One aged woman they took and, tying her skirts over her head, beat her thus naked through the village. A younger woman they stripped entirely, and made her dance with a man, whom they also stripped of all his garments, and to this spectacle the inhabitants of five surrounding villages were invited.

The Bulgarian Protestants have no officer to protect their interests, and at this moment it would be well if some arrangement in view of this might be effected. Their number is now considerable, and they are a quiet industrious people most desirous of protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HAGOP MATTEOSIAN,
Vekil of the Protestant Community.

No. 51.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 828.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, and Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Prevesa respecting the state of affairs in their districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, June 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the whole of the Albanian population, both Mussulman and Christian, in the towns around Prisrend, viz., Uskub, Koprouleo, Istib, Katchanee, and the mountainous region called Caleanderch, with all the adjoining villages, are preparing to arm to resist the Russians, Servians, and Bulgarians; and that all are agreed to assemble at Prisrend, as a convenient central town, and then unite together in one vast effort against the expected invasion, hoping that by extending the line eastward they will succeed in joining hands with the rising in the Rhodope Mountains. They are said to be 120,000 men, ready to take the field as soon as they shall have heard that the decision in the coming Congress is favourable to Russian and Slav views. Your Excellency may rely on the fact of the projected assembly at Prisrend of the male able-bodied population of thirty towns and large villages; and I hope, by next mail, to be able to give your Excellency the detailed particulars of this movement. I hear from Mr. Suter, on the 12th instant, what is also reported here, that about Mount Olympus, and also in other parts of Thessaly, many of the insurgents are delaying their return to Greece, in order to wait and see what will be done in the Congress about the Greek question. Mr. Suter also informs me that, by orders from the Porte, all the

infantry regiments (except eighteen battalions) in Thessaly are to be sent to Constantinople, thus leaving an insufficient military force to repress disorder and brigandage, which is on the increase everywhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Prevesa, June 15, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation of M. Kypriotí's despatch of the 10th instant, relative to the state of public security near Grevená.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 51.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Jumina, June 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the armed bands which infest the neighbourhood of Grevená have of late robbed a great many persons on the road from Grevená.

During the last week the above bands came into collision with the Government troops which had been reinforced on the 5th instant by a battalion and two guns from our garrison.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 52.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 894.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 26, 1878.*

SAFVET PASHA has given directions for the preparation and immediate publication of new regulations for granting concessions for mining operations, railways, and other enterprises, abolishing the old restrictions which have hitherto stood much in the way of the development of the great resources of this Empire. I am assured that these new regulations will be framed in a very liberal spirit, and his Highness hopes that the advantages and facilities which will now be offered by the Porte will induce foreigners to invest their capital in public works and private enterprises in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 53.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 896.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 26, 1878.*

THE Turkish Plenipotentiaries may probably call the attention of the Congress to the proceedings of the Russians in the provinces occupied by them to the south of the Balkans which have been treated in all respect like a conquered territory, permanently annexed. The Russian authorities, as your Lordship will find by Mr. E. Calvert's despatches of the 17th instant, are collecting the taxes in advance, farming out the tithes upon the very system which they formerly denounced as amongst the evils of the Turkish administration, which justified a war to free the Bulgarians, confiscating the property of the Mussulmans, destroying their crops, pulling down their houses in the towns, converting their mosques into store-houses, and using them for other purposes, desecrating their

cemeteries, persecuting or permitting the persecution of those who do not belong to the dominant faith, and exercising all the other rights which Russia is in the habit of enforcing in countries which she conquers. Not only is she treating in the manner I have described the populations of the Provinces which, if the Treaty of San Stefano were in full force, would form part of the tributary Bulgarian Principality, but that part of the Sultan's territories which she now occupies in violation of that Treaty and of solemn engagements, and which she only possesses by the right of force.

The Porte has in vain made representations to the Russian Ambassador and to the Russian authorities on this subject. Its complaints may be listened to, but no redress is given; nor apparently are any measures taken to put a stop to proceedings so contrary to all principles of justice, and so completely at variance with the practice of civilised nations. It must be remembered that the Pashalic of Adrianople and the country between its boundaries and Constantinople are in no sense conquered territories. They were occupied after the suspension of hostilities, and the greater part of them are to be restored to the Porte. Turkey would, therefore, have a right to claim from Russia indemnities and compensation for this wanton and general destruction of property belonging to the State and to individuals; and such claims, together with the taxes which have been wrongfully exacted, might fairly be considered as a set off against those put forwarded by Russia for losses alleged to have been entailed upon her in consequence of an unjustifiable attack upon a neighbouring State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 54.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 48. Consular.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch from Dr. Dickson, giving an account of the state of the public health of Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Dr. Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, June 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the public health of this city is steadily improving. No fresh cases of typhus or small-pox have shown themselves during the past week amongst the refugees in Stamboul, nor amongst those on the European shores of the Bosphorus. On the Asiatic side, however, more especially at Scutari and at Kadi-keui, cases of typhus continue to crop up, and the mortality amongst the refugees has increased of late; there is, moreover, a good deal of sickness at Anatoli-Hissar, and diarrhœa and ague have become very prevalent. The death-rate amongst the refugees has everywhere diminished except at Scutari. The oft-repeated complaints of inadequate assistance and scantiness of food given to the refugees by the Government, of the insufficiency of the medical assistance afforded to their sick, and of the utter neglect or incapacity to send these wretched people back to their homes or to settle them down in other provinces, are still urged by Dr. Ghiazzi, Dr. Mordtmann, and Dr. Stekoulas. It appears, therefore, more than probable that the refugees will remain in this city, adding a permanent increment to its elements of poverty, crime, sickness, and disorder.

The improvement noted in the public health has led the Board of Health to modify the wording of the bill of health issued at this port in the following terms: "Les cas de typhus exanthematiques ont diminué considérablement dans la capitale."

A question also arose as to the necessity of maintaining any longer the three medical inspections that keep the Board informed of the condition and health of the refugees; but the Board decided that no change should be made for the present.

Dr. Vitalis, who, in the absence of Dr. Bartoletti, is acting as Inspector-General of the Health Department, informed the Board that as the vessels which are employed to convey to Russia the sick and wounded Russian soldiers hoist the Red Cross flag, they have

been exempted from the sanitary dues leviable at Turkish ports, in the same manner that has been practised for those flying the Red Crescent flag.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. W. DICKSON.

No. 55.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 37. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, July 4, 1878.*

IN venturing to express, in a separate form, my most grateful acknowledgments for the copy of Lapie's splendid map of Greece, which I have had the honour to receive from the Department, as an annex to the Parliamentary Paper, "Greece, No. 1 (1878)," but by which the map was not accompanied, I beg to crave your Lordship's indulgence in further venturing to point out an inaccuracy in the map not to be reconciled with historical facts, and is, moreover, in contradiction with a statement contained in my despatch No. 9, Political, of the 18th February last.

2. In the despatch in question I have described the Forest of Radovisi, then the scene of hostilities between the Turks and Greek raiders, as bounded on the north by the "Arachthus," which, in common parlance, is simply designated the "Arta."

3. But while in Lapie's map the modern name "Arta" is properly enough applied to this stream, I observe that the name of "Arachthus" is applied to the modern "Louro," by which the magnificent but uncultivated plain of Arta is bounded to the westward. The ancient name of the "Louro" is the "Charadrus," a name which well describes the precipitous nature of the stream from its source till it reaches the plain.

4. As the Louro, and not the Arachthus, forms the eastern boundary of the district which has been so lately convulsed and devastated in consequence of the filibustering expedition of February last, and as the district will, no doubt, require to be subjected to an exceptional régime till order is restored, it may not be without importance to have its limits accurately defined. Be this as it may, I trust your Lordship will be pleased to view with indulgence the preceding remarks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 56.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 8.)

(Secret.)
Sir, *Admiralty, July 6, 1878.*

WITH reference to my letter of 2nd instant, I am commanded by my Lord's Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the accompanying copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Hornby, 24th June, No. 795, relative to the alleged intention of the Russians to occupy the Islands of Marmora.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Secret and Confidential.)
Sir, *"Salamis," at Therapia.*

REFERRING to Rear-Admiral Sir A. Commerell's letter to you of the 21st instant, I have the honour to state, for the Lord's Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I agree entirely with Sir Edmund in the opinion he expresses that the occupation of the Marmora Islands by the Russians would be more threatening than a direct attack on the Gallipoli

lines; the latter would probably be repulsed, whilst the former would place an enemy perilously near the Asiatic forts of the Dardanelles which are undefended in the rear.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY.

No. 57.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 8.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, July 6, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the accompanying despatch from Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay, dated Suda Bay, 28th June, relative to the state of affairs in Candia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 57.

Vice-Admiral Lord J. Hay to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Sir, *"Minotaur," in Suda Bay, June 28, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 26th and 27th instant, I have the honour to reprint you that, on receiving the letter of the 25th, of which is inclosed a copy, from Mr. Sandwith, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, I despatched the "Coquette" to Khania, where she arrived at 4 A.M. of the 26th, followed by Her Majesty's ship "Defence," which arrived there at 2·30 P.M. the same day.

2. The inclosed copies of my instructions to Captain Cator, given after receiving this communication, and after having the advantage of a conversation with Mr. Sandwith on the subject, indicate the then apparent gravity of the situation. The excitement and alarm had so much subsided by yesterday evening, that I despatched the second telegram.

3. I learnt from the Turkish Admiral Hussein Pasha, on the 26th, who had himself been to Khania, that, in his opinion, the alleged causes for alarm had been greatly exaggerated, and that there was no real ground for apprehension. The letter of the 26th from Mr. Sandwith, copy inclosed, shows also that his Excellency Costaki Pasha, Governor-General, is of opinion that perfect tranquillity is now restored. Under these circumstances I intend to withdraw the "Defence," and leave Her Majesty's gun-boat "Coquette" at Khania for the present.

4. I think it is probable that the few, on the part of the Christian population, of a serious outbreak of Mussulman fanaticism may have been exaggerated, but, if so, it is easy to understand their disquietude. Some bodies of Mussulmans, I believe, killed in the recent operations, were very injudiciously brought into the town of Khania, and were the cause of much excitement; a row took place, people were insulted, shops closed, some few wounded, and one reported to be killed. It was known that a numerously attended meeting of Mussulmans was to be held outside the town, to consider what action should be taken. Moreover, the alleged massacre by the Turkish troops of a number of old men, women, and children, some reports saying as many as 100, during the late operations of the Turkish army, were not of a re-assuring character.

5. It forms no part of my duty to investigate into the precise facts connected with those affairs which will no doubt be reported upon by Mr. Sandwith. I therefore confine myself to giving you a brief sketch of the events that have led to my dispatching the telegrams before referred to, and to my detaching "Defence" and "Coquette" to Khania, a measure which has certainly been most tranquillizing in its effect upon the minds of all.

6. I may observe that the Italian gun-boat "Curtidi" has been lying for some time off Khania, and that the French gun-vessel "Bisson" proceeded there also, apparently for the same reason that I sent "Defence" and "Coquette."

7. I trust that the change of the General commanding the forces will, in his disposition to second the efforts of the Governor-General, tend to completely restore a sense of security to those residing within the Turkish lines.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 57.

Consul Sandwith to Lord J. Hay.

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, June 25, 1878.*

IN an interview which I had with the Governor-General this morning, his Excellency informed me that extreme irritation existed in Canea and other parts of Crete against the Christians, and that he was in some alarm lest an outbreak of Mussulman fanaticism might occur.

Threats and personal violence have been freely used by the latter; several Christians have been wounded, and one has just died of his wounds. When I left Canea at noon to-day all the shops of the Christians were shut, and the streets were almost deserted. Aware that the authority of Castaki Pasha has been seriously undermined by the misunderstanding between him and the Commander-in-chief, and feeling that should the news suddenly come of a decision by the great Powers concerning the future of this island adverse to the wishes of the Mussulman minority, an ebullition of feeling against the Christians might be the result. I have the honour to draw your Lordship's attention to the present serious state of affairs with a view to your adopting such measures for protecting the lives and property of foreign subjects as may seem to you to be required.

I would take the liberty of suggesting the sending of an iron-clad belonging to your Lordship's squadron to anchor off the town as a step calculated to inspire public confidence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 57.

Vice-Admiral Lord J. Hay to Captain Cator.

(Memo.) *"Minotaur," in Suda Bay, June 25, 1878.*

YOU will proceed in Her Majesty's ship under your command to-morrow morning (26th) at daylight at slow speed to and anchor off Khania.

The inclosed copy of a letter, dated to-day, from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul Mr. Sandwith will explain to you the object I have in view in employing the "Defence" on this service.

You are not to allow your officers to go on shore except in uniform, and you will, by communication with Mr. Sandwith, ascertain from time to time whether it is desirable that leave should be given at all.

In the event of any outbreak of fanaticism taking place such as has apparently been indicated by his Excellency the Governor-General, you will bear in mind that you have no orders to interfere between the Ottoman Government and its subjects, but that you will be expected to protect, by receiving on board any of the European Consular authorities or individuals who may be desirous of protection from outbreaks of violence of the kind deemed possible by his Excellency, and by Mr. Sandwith.

On arriving at Khania you will wait on his Excellency the Governor-General, accompanied, if possible, by Mr. Sandwith, and will explain that I have sent you to that anchorage in consequence of the account I have received from Mr. Sandwith of his Excellency's apprehensions as to possible outbreaks of violence among the population of Khania and its neighbourhood, and that I have directed you to be prepared to take the necessary measures if required to insure the safety of the European part of the population.

You will desire "Coquette" to return to Suda Bay, bringing report of your proceedings after visiting his Excellency the Governor-General.

You will during your stay keep in communication with the Consul, Mr. Sandwith, and you will communicate daily with me by means of one of my orderlies who calls at the Consulate at 4·30 P.M. every day.

(Signed) JOHN HAY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 57.

Vice-Admiral Lord J. Hay to Captain Cator.

(Memo.) *"Minotaur," Suda Bay, June 26, 1878.*

MR. SANDWITH informs me that he believes it possible that some demonstration may be made against the British Consulate by some of the excited Mussulman population.

In the event of this appearing to be the case, you will, when requested by him, send a sufficient guard to protect the Consulate from violence, but bearing in mind that if affairs assume a more serious aspect than can be dealt with in such a manner, you will acquaint Mr. Sandwith, affording him the necessary means for leaving the shore.

I have verbally requested Mr. Sandwith to arrange for the concurrence in this step of his Excellency the Governor-General, whose sanction should be obtained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN HAY.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing, I have seen Hussein Pasha, Admiral in Command of the Turkish squadron, who has been to Khania, and says there is no ground for alarm; under these circumstances you will be careful to take no steps calculated to produce an impression of unnecessary anxiety as to the state of affairs at Khania.

J. H.

Inclosure 5 in No. 57.

Consul Sandwith to Vice-Admiral Lord J. Hay.

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, June 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter dated yesterday, in which you state that, in consequence of the apprehensions entertained by his Excellency the Governor-General of an outbreak of Mussulman fanaticism, your Lordship had directed "Coquette" to anchor off Khania, and that "Defence" would shortly follow her.

I beg to state that I have just called with Captain Cator, Commanding Her Majesty's ship "Defence," upon Costaki Pasha, who assured us that perfect tranquillity was now restored, and that he had no fear of any hostilities occuring. His Excellency told us that he had this morning assembled the Mussulman notables of the town, and pointed out to them that he would not tolerate any interference with his authority, and that he held them responsible for the preservation of tranquillity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 58.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 7, 1878.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador has agreed to conditions of Porte for the surrender of Shumla and Varna. Commission of relief to be sent to effect it. Russia undertakes that Mussulman inhabitants and fugitives shall not be molested, and shall retain their arms for the present, the Porte, however, objecting to this limitation. Russians are at once to take possession of strong positions commanding both places, to be selected by Russia [two groups undecypherable]. Shumla is to be evacuated first, the war and other stores belonging to Porte being removed to Varna, which will subsequently be given up. After both places have been evacuated the Russian army will retire beyond the lines of Chataldja. Embarkation of the Turkish prisoners for Turkey will begin at Sebastopol as soon as evacuation of Shumla commences.

No. 59.

Mr. Cross to Mr. Vivian.

(No. 128.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 8, 1878.*

PRINCE HASSAN called here on the 27th ultimo. He said he had been ordered to do so by the Khedive, in order to find out what answer the English Government intends to give as to allowing an Englishman to go to Egypt, as he expressed it, with absolute control over Administration and taxation as Inspector-General. What his father wished was, that in recommending him, Her Majesty's Government should only be held responsible for recommending him as to ability, competency, and honesty, and he presumed he would have had experience in India. He did not know whether his father would give him a permanent office for a certain fixed number of years, but he himself quite saw the necessity for this.

He also wished to know whether we would take steps to furnish the Egyptian army with high English officers.

He said he would call again for an answer to these questions, in the course of next week, and I said I should consult Lord Salisbury and my colleagues.

Prince Hassan called again this day to ask if I could give any answer to the question he had asked as to the proposed Inspector of Provinces.

I told him that with every wish to assist the Khedive in the improvement of Government in his dominions, the matter was one which I and my colleagues have thought must stand over for consideration until Lord Salisbury's return from Berlin, and that I therefore did not feel justified in expressing any opinion upon the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. A. CROSS.

No. 60.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 839.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation of a petition from the inhabitants of Katchova protesting against the annexation of their country to Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Petition from Inhabitants of Katchova against this District being included in New Bulgaria.

(Traduction.)

A l'Ambassade d'Angleterre à Constantinople.

NOUS avons été peinés d'apprendre par les journaux que notre pays va être incorporé à la nouvelle Bulgarie. Notre pays est le district de Katchova et il est habité par des Musulmans et Chrétiens qui sont tous Albanais et d'une même race, vivant ensemble comme des frères. Par conséquent, nous ne consentirons jamais à changer de sujetion, et nous ferons pour cela tous les sacrifices. Nous voulons rester les fidèles sujets du Gouvernement Ottoman, et s'il y a des réformes à introduire dans notre pays, nous voulons bien les accepter pourvu qu'elles proviennent de notre Gouvernement.

Nous prions que notre humble requête soit communiquée à l'auguste Gouvernement Anglais aux fins requises.

Le 1/13 Juin, 1878.

(Suivent les sceaux des primats et autres habitants du district de Katchova.)

No. 61.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 840.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica respecting the state of affairs in his Consular district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 61.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, June 22, 1878.*

REFERRING your Excellency to my despatch of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit, herewith inclosed, a copy of the report I have received of the projected rising of the Albanian population, which is now an established fact.

From Cavalla I learn that the influential Beys of Drama, setting aside the Mutessarif, or Governor, have enrolled 2,000 Bashi-Bazouks to fight the Russians and Bulgarians, because they have heard that the Bulgarians have burned six Mahommedan villages in the Rhodope Mountains. The Christians of Drama, called upon by these Beys to pay for this contingent, have refused, declaring the demand illegal, since the Porte has signed a Treaty of Peace with Russia. And yet, on the 12th instant, a battalion of infantry, two field-pieces with ammunition, were landed at Cavalla by an Ottoman corvette, "Odiémé," and were sent on to Drama.

For more than two months the town of Cavalla has been without a Kaïmakam, and anarchy prevails in the country districts, and brigandage is on the increase, with impunity. In the vicinity of Kara Ferria (Verria), within two hours of Colonel Synge's property, a band of robbers have killed two Turks and pillaged some hamlets; and at Kitros, near M. Bizzo's farm, another band have shot a Turk, and carried off three others who were making salt, demanding 4,000 liras as ransom.

Nothing whatever has been done by the Defterdar in the matter of M. Bizzo's cattle. Orders were sent to Catterina by him, but no attention has been paid to them; and I do not think anything will be done until a Vali be appointed for Salonica. Yesterday a British vessel, the "Great Northern," having on board several British officers, arrived here to examine and decide on the most fitting place for the landing and establishment of a submarine telegraph cable, but she left before the evening for Besika Bay.

Constantinides Pacha, the Mustechar, has left for Vienna, on leave, to take the baths somewhere in that vicinity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 61.

Extract from a Letter received by Acting Consul Barker from Uskub.

ON sait de sources certaines qu'une association redoutable vient de se former parmi les Albanais. Ceux-ci sont prêts, au premier signal, à se soulever contre la décision du Congrès. Ils le déclarent à grands cris, disant:

"Plutôt mourir que devenir Ghiaour. Si le Gouvernement veut nous vendre, si l'occupation Chrétienne a lieu, nous prendrons les armes; car cette occupation nous demandera compte, et par la grâce de Mahomet, nous pouvons payer que par notre sang. Comment pourrions nous vivre sous le joug étranger? On nous dira que nos femmes ne nous appartiennent pas légitimement parcequ'elles sont Chrétiennes de sang, et que nous les avons volées; nos biens proviennent de rapines; nos champs ne sont pas à nous, &c. Mieux vaut la mort qu'une pareille situation.

"Nous ne sommes pas des 'Tcherkess' que l'on pourra chasser; nous sommes des 'Bobecks.' Nos montagnes sont notre patrie, et nos fusils notre défence contre toute attaque."

Le but de cette association formidable, mais indisciplinée, est d'engager la guerre avec

les Serbes, et le rendezvous (après Prisrend), disent-ils, selon leur ignorance en géographie, serait à Varna.

No. 62.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 841.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt respecting the endeavours of the Greek Committees to prevent the return of the Thessalian refugees to their homes, and the expulsion of M. Tchapallos from Greece.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Domoko, Thessaly, June 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that of 911 families of the district of Domoko that took refuge in Greece during the late insurrection, 658 have returned to their villages. I am assured that the remainder are preparing to come back, notwithstanding the efforts which are made by the National Defence Committee in Greece to dissuade them from doing so. I have also been told by parties here who have relations in Greece that the object this Committee has in view is to represent to the Congress now sitting at Berlin that although in deference to the advice of Her Majesty's Government the insurrection has been relinquished, and is not supported by the Greek people, the Christian refugees from Thessaly refuse to return to their homes as they have lost all confidence in the Turkish Government, and have an earnest desire to get rid of it, and long for annexation to Greece.

Memorials expressing these sentiments have been prepared in behalf of the refugees; and I understand that M. Kartali, a native of Volo, and one of the principal Chiefs of the insurgents of Mount Pelion has been deputed to proceed to Berlin to present these memorials to the Congress. It is certain from all I have observed and heard during my visit to Armyro, Pharsala, and this place, that the views of the National Defence Committee are encouraged and supported by some of the Greek frontier authorities. As an instance I may mention the expulsion of M. Tchapalos from Fourna, a Greek town close to the frontier. M. Tchapalos is a native of Sinokovo, a Christian village in the Agraphu Mountains, and as he is a loyal subject of the Sultan and enjoys considerable influence with the inhabitants of Agraphu, most of whom fled to Fourna and other Greek towns, he was requested by the Turkish authorities of Larissa to visit these towns and endeavour to persuade the fugitives to return.

Two days after his arrival at Fourna (about a fortnight ago), the Mayor, M. Galli, and the Commandant, Major Pina, called on him, and told him that they had received orders from the "Eparchos"—sub-prefect—of Vrettania to expel him from Greek territory, "as he had no right to meddle in the affairs of the fugitives." I hold the above information from M. Tchapalos himself, who arrived here yesterday evening to confer with Redjib Pasha.

I should add that M. Galli, the Mayor of Fourna, took an active and prominent part in the insurrection, and was one of the insurgent Chiefs with whom Consul Merlin and I carried on our late negotiations at Lentros. I have had a good deal of conversation with refugees who have recently returned from Greece, regarding their sentiments, &c., and I have noticed that the language common to all is that they expect, as they have been assured will be the case, that Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia will be annexed to Greece; they say that they were told by the Greek authorities that England has promised to bring about this change, and appear to fully expect that it will soon be carried out.

The inclosed, purporting to be a "Havas" telegram, of which the subjoined is a translation, was printed at Lamia, and has been distributed among the refugees:—

(Translation.)

"Russia consents to the cession of Thessaly, Crete, and half of Epirus to the Kingdom of Greece; but England asks for larger concessions.

"It is considered certain that the boundaries of the Hellenic nation will be very considerably extended."

Athens, June $\frac{1}{13}$, 5 P.M.

I must report to your Excellency that the civil and military authorities in Thessaly are acting with moderation and justice towards the refugees who have returned to their villages, and seem to be doing their best to conciliate the Christians. They observe strictly and impartially the amnesty granted by the Sultan, and are taking efficient measures to recover and restore to their owners the cattle and other property which was taken from them during the late events.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 63.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 513.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 29, 1878.*

IN pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, I have done my best to persuade the Porte to accept the proposals of Austria-Hungary for the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by her troops. I have repeatedly spoken to the Sultan, and to successive Grand Viziers and Prime Ministers, on this subject, and have used all the arguments that I could command to persuade them to conciliate the Austro-Hungarian Government by consenting to an arrangement which would probably, in the end, be forced upon Turkey if she refused to agree to it voluntarily.

Since receiving your Lordship's telegrams of the 7th, 21st, and 27th instant, I have represented to Safvet Pasha, and through him to the Sultan, the urgent importance of forestalling the decision of the Congress, which would inevitably be in favour of the occupation by Austria of the two provinces; and I have communicated to them the opinions and advice of Lord Beaconsfield and your Lordship on the subject. I was, at first, under the impression that the Porte would yield to the Austrian demands; but, before coming to a final decision on the subject, the Sultan, acting on the advice of his Ministers, considered it necessary to consult the Great Council of the nation, which accordingly met at the Yeldiz Palace on Thursday the 27th instant, and after a discussion lasting for several hours, declared unanimously against the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria. The Porte consequently resolved not to accede to Count Andrassy's demand, and to instruct its Plenipotentiaries to oppose it in the Congress. The Council, which was attended by some of the principal notables of the Empire, civil, religious, and military, as well as by the Ministers, was presided over by the Sultan in person. I am informed, however, that His Majesty took no part in the discussion, leaving it to the Council to come to a decision.

It may be as well to recapitulate very shortly what has occurred in this matter.

In the month of last, the Austrian Ambassador at the Porte, at an audience of the Sultan, asked His Majesty to cede absolutely ("en toute propriété") Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austria-Hungary. Count Zichy refused to make any communication in writing on the subject, and insisted upon the most absolute secresy being kept with regard to it. It was soon, however, reported that the demand had been made. When questioned about it by Her Majesty's Government and by the Hungarian Representatives, Count Andrassy gave the most categorical denial to the report. He then shifted his ground, and proposed to the Porte a temporary occupation of the provinces by Austrian troops. He subsequently endeavoured to prevail upon the Sultan and the Porte to take the initiative, and to invite Austria to send troops into Bosnia in the interest of Turkey herself. Count Zichy even submitted to the Grand Vizier the draft of a note in this sense, which his Excellency suggested the Porte might address to him. Safvet Pasha was not unwilling to adopt it, with certain modifications, which made the reservation of the Sultan's sovereign rights over the provinces more definite and clear. But his Highness proposed, at the same time, that Austria should enter into a Convention with the Porte, specifying the number of troops that were to enter Bosnia, the places which they were to occupy, and various other military details, and assuring to the Turkish authorities the civil administration of the province.

Count Andrassy absolutely refused to enter into any such Convention, and Count Zichy further objected to one of the modifications in the proposed note, which specifically reserved the Sultan's sovereignty.

When the meeting of the Congress was agreed to by England and the other Powers, Count Zichy was instructed to suspend for a time the negotiations for the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria. After the Congress had met they were renewed by Count Andrássy informing the Porte that its members had agreed in principle to the entry of Austrian troops into Bosnia, that it would be proposed formally, and would unquestionably be sanctioned. He therefore required that the Porte should give instructions to its Plenipotentiaries not to offer any opposition to the proposal, nor to protest against the occupation of Bosnia, as Austria did not wish to be compelled to take this step in a hostile spirit to and against the will of Turkey. Count Andrássy promised that, if the Porte gave its consent to the contemplated measure, Austria would obtain a modification of the boundaries assigned by the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano to Servia and Montenegro, which would be very favourable to Turkey. Count Zichy appears to have gone even further, and to have led the Porte to believe that the sovereignty of the Sultan and the temporary nature of the occupation would be specially guaranteed by the Congress; but this has not been confirmed by any communication from Count Andrássy or from the Austro-Hungarian Government, and consequently the Porte believes that it is only an unauthorized expression of Count Zichy's personal opinion in order to induce it to yield. The negotiations had reached this point when they were broken off by the decision of the Grand Council.

As no official communications in writing appear to have passed between Count Zichy and the Porte in this matter, and the greatest secrecy has been observed with regard to it, my statement may not be perfectly accurate; but it is founded upon what I have learnt in confidence from Count Zichy himself, and from the Sultan and his Ministers. It is also corroborated to a certain extent by the documents of which I have been able to send copies to your Lordship.

I understand that the decision of the Grand Council was in the following sense:—That there was no necessity nor justification for Austria to occupy by her troops Bosnia and Herzegovina; and that, if the object of such occupation be the security of the refugees wishing to return to their homes, the Porte would enter into an engagement to take measures for their proper protection by means of a gendarmerie and two High Commissioners, whom it would send into those provinces at once with instructions to obtain the moral support and co-operation of the Austro-Hungarian Government. The Council further decided that the Porte should introduce into the two provinces all the reforms required for the welfare and security of the populations.

As soon as I was made acquainted with the decision of the Council, I did my utmost to induce Safvet Pasha to endeavour to obtain a modification of it, and to prevail upon his colleagues to act upon the advice of Lord Beaconsfield and your Lordship. I communicated to him your Lordship's telegram of the 27th instant, and pointed out to him the immense importance of securing the support of Austria to the proposals which England was making in the Congress in the interest of Turkey. But his Highness replied that it was utterly hopeless to obtain any such modification unless Austria were prepared to conclude a suitable Convention with Turkey, which she had hitherto refused to do. She had even, his Highness said, rejected the Porte's proposal to enter into the secret defensive alliance with Turkey for the security of her European territories, as suggested by Lord Beaconsfield.

The Grand Vizier further observed that all the written communications hitherto made by Count Zichy to the Porte, with reference to the cession, annexion, or occupation of Bosnia, had been without date or signature, and consequently there could be no official record or proof of them, whilst all the advantages offered to Turkey in return for the occupation of her two provinces had been confined to mere verbal promises and assurances, which the Porte had every reason to distrust after the conduct of the Austrian Government throughout the Herzegovinian insurrection and the Servian war.

It cannot but be admitted that the course pursued by Austria has been neither straightforward, nor the one best calculated to accomplish the object she had in view. The general feeling in this country against her is now one of intense distrust and even indignation. The Porte is convinced that for some years past she has been preparing her plans, and pursuing a policy the object of which is the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire and the annexation to Austria, with the assent and connivance of Russia, of a considerable part of the Sultan's territories in Europe, "another partition of Poland," as Safvet Pasha observed to me. The Turkish Government cannot forget that some years ago the Austrian Government employed engineer officers in disguise to examine the country to the north of Salonica, with a view, it is suspected, of obtaining it at some future period. The Porte is confirmed in this suspicion by the endeavours of Austria to obtain its consent to the occupation of Novi-Bazar and Mitrovitza by Austrian troops, and by the arrange-

ment, which it proposed to Russia with regard to the change in the western limits of Bulgaria, as defined by the preliminary Treaty of San Stefano. The Porte cannot forget that the insurrection in Herzegovina, which was the origin of the late disastrous war, was brought about by Austria; that the Austrian Government, notwithstanding the complaints addressed to it, permitted General Rodich, the Governor of Dalmatia, to connive at the supply of arms and ammunition to the insurgents in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and that similar supplies and even cannon were openly sent through Cattaro, and other places on the Austrian coast, to Montenegro, by which that Principality was enabled to carry on the war against Turkey, and to possess itself of Turkish territory; and that although Austria pretended to disapprove of the proceedings of Servia, and promised the Porte that she would not permit them, she, nevertheless, allowed that Principality to make an unprovoked attack upon Turkey after her defeat by Russia, and to occupy a considerable part of Western Roumelia. The Turks are, consequently, persuaded that from the very first Austria has had a secret design to acquire Bosnia and Herzegovina, and, hereafter, further Turkish territory in the direction of Albania, including Salonica. Under these circumstances, they not unnaturally ask why they should be called upon to part with one of the richest provinces of the Empire, to propitiate a neighbouring Power, which can have no claims upon their gratitude, but which, on the contrary, has been the principal cause of their misfortunes. I merely repeat the language which I hear from persons of influence and of high position, without expressing an opinion upon it.

Saïvet Pasha stated to Mr. Sandison, at an interview which he had with his Highness late yesterday, that should the Congress decide that Bosnia and Herzegovina should be occupied by or annexed to Austria, the Porte would have no course left to it but to submit to the award; his Highness added that he was not prepared to say that the entry of the Austrian troops into the former province would be effected without bloodshed. Mr. Sandison understood his Highness to mean, not that the Turkish troops would offer any opposition, but that the Mussulman population, which amounts to 250,000 souls (? whether women and children, or only men are included), might resist being transferred bodily without their consent to the rule of a foreign and a Christian Power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 64.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 844.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a despatch addressed to me by Acting Consul Calvert on the 26th instant,* by which your Lordship will perceive that the Russian authorities are preparing to introduce a new fiscal system and a new Tariff, detrimental to British interests, to the provinces occupied by them to the south of the Balkans. I have received similar information from other sources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 65.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 846.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 1, 1878.*

THE Patriarch of the Armenians of Constantinople called upon me yesterday to ask me to recommend the cause of himself and of his people to Lord Beaconsfield and your Lordship at the Congress. He said that, as the Porte objected to his going himself to Berlin, he had entrusted the advocacy of the rights and interests of the Armenian community to M. Kherimian, to whose representations in their behalf he trusted that your Lordship would give favourable consideration.

I told M. Nerses that I had every reason to believe that Lord Beaconsfield and your Lordship were doing all that was possible to insure the future good and just government of the Armenians, as for all other subjects of the Sultan, and that I had every hope that your efforts would be successful. He begged me to express his earnest thanks to your

* See No. 75.

Lordship, and to assure you that the Armenians looked to England alone for protection and help.

I have this morning received the inclosed letter from him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Monsignor Nerses to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence,

JE viens de recevoir un télégramme des Délégués Arméniens à Berlin m'annonçant que son Altesse le Prince Bismarck a présenté au Congrès dans sa dernière séance la lettre que j'avais pris la liberté de lui écrire en sa qualité de Président, ainsi que le réglement organique que nous demandons pour le Gouverneur-Général de l'Arménie. Permettez-moi, Excellence, d'ajouter à ce que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous soumettre hier, qu'en dehors de l'organisation de la Province Arménienne par des fonctionnaires Arméniens toute réforme aboutira fatalement à de nouvelles et cruelles déceptions. Tandis que d'autres Chrétiens peuvent chercher leur salut dans l'annexion à une autre Puissance ou dans la constitution d'un Etat séparé. Nous ne demandons qu'à être heureux sous la souveraineté du Sultan. Le réglement soumis aujourd'hui au Congrès a été conçu dans cet esprit et est considéré par toute la nation comme pouvant seul garantir la bonne administration et le bien-être des Arméniens. Votre Excellence ajouterait un dernier bienfait à toutes les preuves d'intérêt et de bienveillance qu'elle a donnée jusqu'ici à mes co-nationaux, et dont ceux-ci garderont un éternel souvenir si elle voulait bien télégraphier dès aujourd'hui cette déclaration à leurs Excellences MM. les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine.

(Signé) Archevêque NERSES,
Patriarche Arménien de Constantinople.

No. 66.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 847.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Reade, giving an account of the lamentable condition of the Mussulman refugees in the district of Shumla, and of the refusal of the Russian authorities to permit these unfortunate people to return to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Pera, June 29, 1878.*

I HAVE already had the honour to report to your Excellency that the Prince Dundakoff Korsakoff had prohibited the return of Mussulman refugees at Shumla and elsewhere to their homes within the Russian line of demarcation. This prohibition not only kept the above refugees in a continued state of great suffering, but also many of those from points within the Turkish line contiguous to that of the Russians, who having heard of the interdiction were afraid of going to where they would be near to, and exposed to, the brutalities of the Bulgars.

On the 22nd instant I received a communication from the medical man at Shumla, informing me that the most destitute of the refugees were suffering most intensely; a number had already died, and that most of them were suffering as much from the want of some nourishing food (they having nothing supplied to them but damaged maize flour) that if something was not quickly done for them they must all succumb. Consequently, I started next morning for Shumla, where I found what had been reported to me to be unhappily true. Having still a considerable balance of the sum placed at our disposal by your Excellency from the Turkish Compassionate Fund, I at once assembled the local

authorities and the Refugee Commission, placed at their disposal some of the balance in hand, and begged them to lose no time in doing something to stay the suffering reported to me. The following was at once decided upon:—

1. To issue 1,000 okes of meat and 15 piastres caimé per oke for vegetables, salt, &c., twice a-week to the most distressed of the refugees (Mondays and Thursdays).

2. As permission to return to their homes had just been suddenly received from the Russians, to grant a small sum of money to each of the families able to return, but who are in a state of destitution, varying from 100 to 150 piastres caimé, according to the size of the families.

3. Competent and trustworthy persons to go to the refugee camp daily to see both of the above measures carried out.

It is necessary for me to explain that the balance of money exists from my having always firmly refused to take off the hands of the authorities the supply of what they were able and ordered to furnish. I consider this was happily done, as I always feared such a contingency as the present one; and had I not been able to supply anything at this moment, the doctor at Shumla is of opinion that, as the resources of the local Government are almost exhausted, all the refugees in question, numbering between 8,000 and 10,000, must have succumbed; these are encamped outside the town of Shumla. The others, who are in the town and villages of the Caza, have or have not found means of existence.

On my return to Varna, I at once sent 300*l.* Turkish to the Commission, through the Governor-General, and have authorized the Commission to draw for what further sum may be required, and within the balance in hand. In the hospital, moreover, there are a number of refugees suffering from incurable diseases, and aggravated by the low spirits of the patients. The medical man says that, under these circumstances, in the hospital they will only get from bad to worse, whereas if they could be sent to their homes the change of air and satisfaction from their return might save some, possibly many. The Commission is, therefore, giving its attention to this subject.

As your Excellency would hardly credit the statement made to me at Shumla as to the number of refugees, I inclose herewith a certificate delivered to me by the Commission, and signed by the President, stating that in the whole Caza of Shumla there are still about 200,000 refugees.

The prohibition of Prince Dundukoff was the more cruel, as the crops are very fine and require reaping, which happily, as it is not yet too late, can now be done.

The General Kaimakam and Commission are fully alive to the gravity of the situation, and I left them doing their best to get over it with the assistance I am happily able to afford them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 67.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 848.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the official announcement of the result of the deliberations of the Grand Council of the nation with reference to the demand of Austria for the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Decision of Grand Council respecting Bosnia.

LE Grand Conseil tenu au Palais Impérial Jeudi dernier a pris les décisions suivantes:—

"Le Conseil a constaté que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans n'ont point consenti à l'occupation de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine par les troupes Austro-Hongroises. La Sublime Porte ne donnera jamais son assentiment à cette occupation. Dans le cas où les troupes Austro-Hongroises franchiraient la frontière, la Sublime Porte considérerait ce fait comme un acte d'agression.

"Ces décisions ont été télégraphiées aux Plénipotentiaires Ottomans pour être communiquées au Congrès."

No. 68.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 850.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship translation of a despatch addressed by the British Vice-Consul at Janina to Her Majesty's Consul at Prevesa, reporting the state of affairs in Lower Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 68.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Janina, June 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the Moutessarif of Argyrocastro has reported to the Governor-General that the inhabitants of Corovelopi (Liapuriá) refuse to pay taxes, and that deserters from other parts of Albania find a safe refuge in that quarter.

The rumour which has been circulating here for the last few days, and which appears to be somewhat true, is, that the Albanians have petitioned the Italian Government to take possession of Albania, or to assume the Protectorate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 69.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 851.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Sankey, reporting affairs at Kustendji.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Kustendji, June 27, 1878.*

SINCE the departure for Bazardjik of the last division of the 14th corps there have been no new arrivals, and I hear that the part of the 12th corps which was expected here has been pushed on in the same direction.

Last week a staff of medical officers, a body of hospital nurses (Red Cross), and thirty waggons of hospital stores arrived here. The same train brought ninety sick. It seems that the air of Braila has been found too oppressive for a general hospital, and all the sick are to be brought here. Instead of being hutted or placed under tents, the sick are crammed into the already over-crowded town. I really believe that the only reason of this wicked arrangement is that the idle and careless officers may have easier access to the restaurants and low houses of resort in the town.

The sappers have finished the construction of eight batteries to protect the harbour and coast from any attempted landing in case of war.

Eight siege guns (6-inch) and sixteen smaller guns are at Tchernavoda, but whether intended for these batteries I as yet cannot find out.

M. Von Brandenburg, "Chef d'arrondissement," called on Sunday, stating that he had been ordered to communicate with me and inquire and report upon the desecration of

the English cemetery by Russian soldiers. I gave the necessary information, and also pointed out some places in the town to which the stones had been carried for building stoves in officers' quarters.

Government surveyors are taking plans of the town and surrounding country.

The men are being exercised at target practice.

The first of a line of Russian steamers arrived here yesterday from Odessa.

Sick and hospital stores come in daily by train, and vans are being fitted up with hammocks for the sick.

Russians and foreigners in general have been used to look upon "Times" telegrams as stating facts beyond dispute, but the paper has been losing its character for accuracy of late by inserting messages from correspondents in these parts. Amongst other things I read a "Times" telegram from Bucharest that the Russian sick were being removed from the low land in the Dobrudsha to the higher and more salubrious Roumanian side, whereas the contrary is the fact, as the Turkish shore all along the river is high land, and the Roumanian low and marshy. Such like loose statements are much calculated to lower the estimation of an authority such as the "Times."

During the war, Dr. H. Sandwith, in a letter to the "Daily News," said something about the Russians perishing by thousands in the pestilential swamps of the Dobrudsha. This sounded well, and was sensational; but instead of too much we have too little water in the Dobrudsha.

To enjoy a day's shooting one is compelled to carry a good supply of water for self and dogs, and the only difficulty since the occupation has been to secure a water supply at any distance from the Danube. Water here is a very expensive article. Such incorrect and sensational articles attract no notice in such an Anti-English and party paper like the "Daily News," but so many inaccuracies have lately crept into the "Times," that it behoves the managers of that paper to be more careful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SANKEY.

No. 70.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 852.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch, which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Stokes, reporting matters at Sulina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Sulina, June 27, 1878.*

I HAVE now the honour to inform your Excellency that the two Russian popofkas (originally built for the defence of the harbour of Odessa) arrived here yesterday evening, and will probably remain here for the defence of this port. They each carry two 40-ton Krupp guns on revolving turrets.

Russian steamers are constantly arriving here with munitions of war, and they have landed a huge number of torpedoes of various kinds, but principally contact torpedoes—in fact, they are making every preparation for holding the place. They are also fortifying Kedrilles (or Outward St. George's mouth), and are also actively progressing with the fortifications of Tultcha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) O. STOKES.

No. 71.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 854.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a confidential Memorandum by Mr. Marinitch, reporting that a meeting was held in Pera on the 30th ultimo with a view to the separation of the Slav provinces from Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Memorandum.

(Confidentiel.)

JE viens d'apprendre, de source autorisée, que plusieurs capitaines Monténégrins et quelques Chefs appartenant aux provinces Slaves de l'Autriche ont tenu hier une réunion à Péra dans le but de combiner les moyens propres qui amèneraient la séparation des provinces Slaves de l'Autriche, sous prétexte que le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois ne prend pas à cœur les intérêts Slaves. Ce mouvement grâve à été provoqué ou projeté par le Monténégro, et il n'est pas difficile de comprendre quel en a été le principal instigateur. M. Petcho, élu comme Président, est parvenu, grâce au tact dont il a fait preuve, et après mille difficultés, à calmer les esprits, et à les décider de ne pas agir contre leur Gouvernement; en les assurant que le Cabinet de Vienne ferait tout ce qui dépendra de lui pour satisfaire leurs désirs et redresser ainsi leurs griefs. A la suite de cet accord, une députation se rendra chez le Comte Zichy pour présenter une pétition à son Excellence.

Pour démontrer la gravité de ce mouvement, dont le Comte Andrassy est déjà informé, je crois devoir placer sous le yeux de votre Excellence la traduction ci-jointe.

Péra, le 1er Juillet, 1878.

(Signé) MARINITCH.

No. 71*.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 855.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Rodosto respecting the excesses committed by the Rayahs on the Mussulmans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 71*.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Rodosto, le 18 Juin,* 1878.

JE me fais un devoir de faire une rectification à mon dernier rapport. L'information que j'avais eu à propos des villageois de Kustegel était inexact. Ayant donné ordre à un de mes agents de Charkeuy de se porter sur les lieux, il m'écrit que réellement vingt-sept chariots furent attaqués et pillés par une bande de Chrétiens, mais qu'à l'exception de quelques-uns qui furent tués, les villageois purent s'échapper et se porter à Charkeuy.

Inclus j'ai l'honneur de vous remettre d'un mien (*sic*) ami de Malgara auquel j'ai écrit pour avoir des informations sur les atrocités qui se commettaient aux alentours de ce village. Les habitants de Malgara même se sont enfuis à cause des tracasseries et outrages dont ils étaient victimes, et se sont réfugiés ici. Aux portes même de la ville

des razzias se commettent journellement. On a élevé des nouvelles redoutes du côté de l'est de cette ville.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) M. DUSSI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 71*.

Substance of a Letter addressed to Vice-Consul Dussi, dated Mulgara, June 10, 1878.

(Translation.)

I AM in receipt of your letter in which you ask for information respecting the manner which the Turks have been treated by the Greeks. The Aghas of Yomdjek attacked the villages of Sari Yar, Batkin, Keremetlik, and Samitch, plundered them, killed more than twenty people, and wounded six. These latter they placed in a house in the village of Yomdjek, and the following day they returned, set fire to it, and burnt all six.

The Greeks, by bands, are plundering and burning all the Turkish villages in the neighbourhood. Thus in our caza, out of from 20 to 25 Turkish villages, only 5 or 6 remain intact. The rest have been destroyed. In the Caza of Charkeui the 20 to 25 villages known as Vakouf-Itchi have been utterly destroyed.

In the Caza of Hairabol, 7 or 8 villages have been destroyed.

These Greeks are in truth worse than the Circassians.

The Russians have latterly arrested a few of them, and it is hoped that they will be properly punished.

We are in great fear here. Last week seven oxen were stolen from one farm, and yesterday evening they took a horse. These people attend to no sort of business, and think of nothing but doing harm.

No. 72.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 856.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch, which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral, expressing a hope entertained by the inhabitants of Angora that their case would be considered in the Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Angora, June 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that a number of the notables of this town and province have waited upon me recently expressing a strong desire that I should communicate to you the great drawbacks and disabilities they labour under, and their hopes that the state of this part of Asia Minor may also be taken into consideration. I could only reply that, having no instructions with regard to such communications, their better plan would be to address you directly. This they state they cannot do owing to their ignorance of the English language, and most of them being representatives of the different communities (Greek, Armenian, and Armenian-Catholic) are therefore members of the local Government Council, and they dread compromising themselves with the Turkish authorities.

The grievances they complain of are as follows:—

The want of roads and railways, and the insecurity of the tracks that have to serve instead; the indolence and corruption of the Turkish officials; and the burdens of an increasing taxation collected with great vigour.

They desire to inform you further that the commerce of the province has continued with Great Britain for more than 100 years, and the profits derived from it form the whole subsistence of the bulk of the population. Their desire is that this intercourse should be

developed and increased, and should the British Government decide on intervening in order to obtain just and orderly government, they will co-operate with and welcome such intervention. They point out that were easy and rapid communication with the capital once established, the province, from the fertility of its soil, the increasing value of its special products, and the salubrity of its climate, would form a profitable field for the investment of British capital, and extremely suitable for British colonization.

The last communication forwarded was dated the 27th April, 1878, to which no reply has been received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GATHERAL.

No. 73.

Acting Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 1. Political.)
My Lord, *Jerusalem, June 22, 1878.*

IN acknowledging the receipt of Sir Julian Pauncefote's despatch No. 1, dated the 23rd May, directing me to make inquiries and report whether the Samaritans at Nablous stand in need of any special protection and assistance, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I do not find that they have cause to complain of persecution or maltreatment arising out of their faith.

The disadvantages under which they labour are those proceeding from their numerical inferiority in respect to other sects, which, by reason of their superior numbers, possess and exercise a preponderating influence in the local Councils, to the advancement of their own interests and the detriment of others.

These disadvantages, which are equally felt and complained of by the native Protestant and other small communities in the land, result, as I need hardly acquaint your Lordship, from the sectarian bias so prevalent among the numerous creeds of this country, uncontrolled and unrestricted to any appreciable extent in its mischief to civil interests by the ruling power.

The inquiries I have made have tended to confirm the impression I have always held, that Mr. Jacob Shellaby, your Lordship's petitioner, is not entitled to put himself forward as the representative of the Samaritan community, or as charged in any way with its general or special interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 74.

Acting Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 2. Political.)
My Lord, *Jerusalem, June 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Russian Consul for Palestine returned to Jerusalem on the 16th instant, and on the 26th instant resumed the duties of his office, which had been interrupted by hostilities between Russia and Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 75.

Vice-Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 22. Political.)
My Lord, *Adrianople, June 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, although no official announcement on the subject has yet been made, it is well-known that the Russian authorities are elaborating a fiscal system which is very shortly to be put in force, and which is to supersede, as regards the parts of the country in Russian occupation, not only the scale and nature

of domestic taxation as hitherto existing, but also and principally the Tariff of duties on foreign imports. No secret is made of this intention by the Russian officials here, and I understand that the newly-appointed Sub-Governors, in taking possession of their posts, have openly proclaimed it, saying that henceforward the revenues of the country are to be collected according to the Russian system. Already, I am told, foreign goods on which import duty has been paid to Turkish Custom-houses are subjected, at Dédéagatch, to further duties levied by Russian officials. These duties are for the present based on the existing Tariff; but it is known that a scale of duties of a very different kind has been determined upon; and, in reply to an inquiry on the subject, a Bulgarian member of one of the local administrative Councils observed, with proud satisfaction, "Yes, we mean to kill importation, so as to develop native resources."

It is understood that, as a preliminary measure, a heavy duty will at once be imposed upon the existing stocks of foreign wines and spirits, which are very considerable in this town.

Another measure, little satisfactory even to native minds of the calibre of the official above referred to, will be that of a stringent curtailment of retail profits. Here native interests are found to clash with those of the Russian consumer. The Russian civil administrators explain the necessity of such a measure by the remark that the officers and soldiers are fleeced by the high prices at which the native tradesmen sell their commodities. This evil must, they say, be remedied by more reasonable prices, to be fixed by official authority; and to that end tables are being prepared laying down the legal and proper value of all saleables, from cotton and woollen cloths down to boxes of steel pens. Sellers whom those prices may not suit will be free to keep their goods to themselves.

Viewing this administrative programme on more general grounds, the Russian officers, impatiently looking forward as they do to a speedy return to their homes, are no less perplexed than the public at large to reconcile with the good promise of a settlement of the existing political difficulties through the labours of the Congress these manifestations of an intention indefinitely to prolong the Russian occupation of Roumelia. Nor are their apprehensions calmed by the aspect of military affairs around them, in which they can only discern yet more ominous signs, pointing to the determination of Russia to maintain her footing in the country, if necessary, by force of arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 76.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 42. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, June 28, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch, Political, No. 39, of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Hadji Loyo has now been at Serajevo for the last eight days, but no measures are taken for his apprehension, from fear, I suppose, of offending the prejudices of the native Mussulmans. An address to the Governor-General in his favour is said to be in preparation by the Hodjas and Mollahs of the town.

I have also been informed, on very reliable authority, that Mazhar Pasha's statement regarding the punishment of the two police officers charged with the apprehension of Hadji Loyo is entirely false, and that they have not even been brought to trial.

This lamentable weakness on the part of the Governor-General is much to be regretted, as it serves to encourage the Moslem population in resistance to all constituted authority, and to enhance the difficulties of the future government of the province.

Hadji Loyo is nothing but an ignorant and fanatical peasant, and it is difficult to account for the character of sanctity acquired by, and the honour accorded to, such a robber and assassin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 77.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 26. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, June 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the mobilization of the Austrian troops in Dalmatia will be completed on the 4th July next, and that their distribution will be as follows:—

1st Division, under General Uchikoch, between Zara and Spalato, consisting of 1 regiment of the line, 2 squadrons of cavalry, and 1 corvette stationed at Zara.

2nd Division, under General Ivvanovich, between Spalato and the Narenta, consisting of 1 regiment of the line at Spalato, 3 battalions of chasseurs at Macarska, 1 battery of mountain guns, and 1 corvette stationed at Spalato.

3rd Division, under General Poppenheim, between the Narenta and the Albanian frontier, consisting of 1 regiment of the line and 1 battalion of chasseurs, 6 mountain batteries, 1 company of telegraphists, 800 horses and mules, and 1 corvette at Ragusa; 2 regiments of the line in the Bocche di Cattaro, 1 battalion of chasseurs at Budua, 1 field battery at Fort Opus, and 1 mountain battery and corvette at Kleek, which is also defended by two half-batteries of heavy guns and torpedoes. In the Bocche di Cattaro there are 3 ironclads and 2 despatch-boats, the latter being stationed at Cattaro, where General Poppenheim has established his head-quarters.

On the different forts between Ragusa and the Albanian frontier 600 guns have been mounted, and at the entrance of the Bocche di Cattaro a battery of Krupp guns level with the sea.

Munitions and stores have arrived, it is said, in abundance.

It is computed that by the 4th July the forces in Dalmatia will amount to at least 30,000 men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 78.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 483.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 3, 1878.*

IT is evident from the whole tone of the public press that the prospect of the early occupation and ultimate annexation of Bosnia causes neither exultation nor even satisfaction in this country. Most of the papers recognize the necessity for the step, but speak of it as being far from desirable, as far as this country is concerned, and this is, I believe, the correct view to take of the question.

The acquisition of the province is likely to be a pecuniary charge upon the Empire for many years, without adding to its strength, and the benefit resulting from it will be negative rather than positive, by preventing the renewal of disturbances on the frontier, which must always be expected in a country where centuries of mal-administration and numerous agrarian grievances have produced a state of feeling that no change of administration can speedily put an end to, and which will require to be controlled by an authority greater than any that was likely to be left in the hands of the Porte, especially if the frontiers assigned to Servia and Montenegro by the Treaty of San Stefano were to be confirmed.

However repugnant it must be to one's feelings to see a country that has been mercilessly handled by one Great Power despoiled of a province by another, I cannot but repeat the conviction I have before expressed, that the loss to Turkey under present circumstances will be small, and that the immediate sacrifice is in her own interest more desirable than the establishment of a state of things which would ultimately lead to it with risk of still greater evils.

As far as the population of the province are concerned, there cannot be a doubt that their material prosperity will be better advanced under the strong hand of Austria than under any system of administrative autonomy that could be devised for a people situated as these are.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 79.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 8, 1878.*

CONSUL-GENERAL FAWCETT is just returned from Rhodope district, having met the Agent who has been sent to visit the whole country with the object of relieving the fugitives. The account he gives of the outrages and horrors committed by the Russians and Bulgarians is perfectly appalling. There would appear to be a determination on the part of the (group left out) to exterminate the Mussulman population. Out of more than 100,000 fugitives who are starving and naked, upwards of 70 per cent. are widows and orphans. In the district of Philippopolis alone, on the 28th and 29th ultimo, twelve villages were burnt and most of the inhabitants massacred, some with the most terrible tortures. In the Demotica district fifty-three villages have been plundered and burnt during last two months; the names of the persons who have been burnt and otherwise tortured to death can be given. The violation of women and young children exceeds anything that can be imagined. I will send you a detailed account, furnished by Consul-General; a similar account, I am informed, has been received by the French Ambassador from a Frenchman who accompanied the (?) army. Can nothing be done by the Congress to put an end to a state of things which disgraces humanity and civilization, and which will apparently last as long as Russians occupy the country?

Cannot a Joint Commission, named by the Powers, be sent without delay to (group wrong), meeting to save the lives of tens of thousands of innocent peasants? We are sending supplies, and some hundreds of persons have been saved from starvation, but the amount of want and misery is beyond private charity.

No. 80.

Acting Consul Summa to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 9, 1878.*

THE delegates of the Province of Scutari and the neighbouring mountaineers who lately went to Prizren have returned to Scutari. The Committee has decided to send an ultimatum to Servia and Montenegro, demanding the evacuation by them of all Albanian territory ceded to them by the Congress, and in case of a refusal, all Albanians will take up arms to force them to do so. The Province of Scutari, and the districts of Dibra, Matjan, and Ochrida will furnish 60,000 men to attack Montenegro.

In Scutari there are large stores of arms, ammunitions, and provisions. A Committee, composed of the delegates, direct all the actions of the Chiefs, and collect and encourage enrolments.

The Vali remains passive, and does not oppose decisions made by the Committee.

Sent to the British Ambassador at Constantinople.

No. 81.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, July 9, 1878.*

AFTER twenty-four hours calm, Mahommedans again rose from all [?]. This afternoon assailed barracks, demanding resignation of General Islaw Pasha, a Bosnian. Leader of the movement, Hudji Loyo, it is thought, encourages ringleaders. A few Albanian troops arrived to-day; more expected. A guard has been placed at every Consulate.

No. 82.

Acting Consul Summa to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 61. Consulaire.)
My Lord, *Scutari, le 1 Juillet, 1878.*

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Seigneurie traduction de la supplique présentée au Corps Consulaire par les Chefs et Veillards de la Mirdite, Pouka, Okrida Mineure, et des Montagnes d'Alessio et Louri, pour être transmise aux Plénipotentiaires réunis en Congrès à Berlin, et dont j'ai eu l'honneur d'entretenir votre Seigneurie par ma dépêche télégraphique datée du 25 de ce mois.

Les signataires de cette requête demandent que leurs pays soit réunis dans un seul Etat autonome, et soumis au commandement direct et immédiat de leur Chef naturel et héréditaire, Prenk Bib Doda; enfin, ils prient que cette autonomie soit aussi reconnue officiellement par les Grandes Puissances Européennes.

Votre Seigneurie n'ignore certainement pas qu'en effet la tribu Catholique des Mirdites s'est toujours réglée et gouvernée par ses propres lois. Le Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte ne s'est jamais immiscé dans l'administration intérieure du pays, qui par conséquent, de fait, a joui de l'atonomie.

Ce n'est que dans ces derniers temps que le Gouvernement de la Porte, à la suite de la révolte des Mirdites, à fait occuper militairement ce pays, et s'est immiscé dans son administration intérieure, et c'est à cause de cette occupation et de cette ingérence, contraire à leur histoire, que nous avons vu dernièrement les Mirdites se refuser de se battre contre les Monténégrins.

Je crois donc de mon devoir de soumettre à votre Seigneurie, pour que la tranquillité puisse se rétablir dans la Mirdite, être nécessaire que la troupe Turque quitte le pays et que l'administration en soit confiée à Prenk Bib Doda, Chef héréditaire de cette tribu.

C'est là le vœu le plus ardent des Mirdites, et en l'exaugant, il y a lieu à croire que la Sublime Porte pourra compter sur leur coopération, et qu'en cas de besoin, ils lui donneront, comme autrefois, leur contingent de troupes; d'autant plus que, aujourd'hui, l'accord le plus cordial existe entre le Gouverneur de Scutari et Prenk Bib Doda. D'ailleurs, cette requête a été présentée au Corps Consulaire à l'insu du Gouverneur, qui ignore complétement cette démarche des Mirdites.

Je dois aussi rapporter à votre Seigneurie, que le 27 du mois écoulé, sont partis pour Prisrendi quatorze délégués des tribus des montagnes Catholiques de la Haute Albanie, ainsi que deux délégués du district de Scutari, pour se réunir aux autres délégués Albanais qu'y sont convoqués en Assemblée Générale, et sur ce sujet j'ai eu l'honneur d'entretenir votre Seigneurie par ma dépêche du 17 du mois passé sous le No. 48.

Par la même dépêche je vous ai communiqué, my Lord, le refus du délégué Monténégrin, Mucho Verbitza, de faire évacuer les endroits occupés par les troupes du Prince après l'armistice, et ayant appris du Gouverneur de Scutari que dans ces derniers jours les Monténégrins avaient évacué la position de Mounsitch, je crois de mon devoir d'en faire part à votre Seigneurie.

On ignore toutefois les intentions du Prince relativement à l'évacuation des autres positions; d'ailleurs, le jour sur ce sujet ne tardera pas à se faire, et je ne manquerai pas de tenir votre Seigneurie au courant de tout ce qui se passera.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) F. SUMMA.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Petition.

(Traduction.)
Au Consulat de Sa Majesté Britannique à Scutari:

NOUS Soussignés, Chefs et vieillards de la Mirdite, Pouka, Okrida Mineure, et des Montagnes d'Alessio et Louri, supplions humblement ce Consulat Royal de vouloir bien transmettre et soumettre le plus tôt possible à MM. les Plénipotentiaires au Congrès Européen à Berlin, notre demande suivante:—

Nos pays, comme c'est notoire, se sont toujours réglés et gouvernés par leurs lois, et par conséquent, de fait, ont joui de l'autonomie. C'est pourquoi nous prions que cette autonomie soit aussi reconnue officiellement par les Grandes Puissances

Européennes, et que la Pouka, Okrida Mineure, les Montagnes d'Alessio et Loura, soient réunies à la Mirdite, et restent sous l'immédiat et direct commandement de notre bien aimé Chef, naturel et héréditaire, Prenk Bib Doda.

Nos pays, à maintes fois, ont manifesté le vœu unanime de former un seul Etat autonome reconnu avec la Mirdite, et preuve spéciale en sont les faits survenus depuis deux ans; par conséquent, nous espérons que nos aspirations (dans le but aussi de pouvoir finalement nous acheminer dans la voie du progrès et de la civilisation que nous désirons) seront prises en considération, et auront l'approbation de MM. les Plénipotentiaires réunis en Congrès à Berlin.

Dans l'espoir que ce Consulat voudra bien donner son appui ainsi que cours immédiat à notre demande, nous avons, &c.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Mirdite, le 18 Juin, 1878.

No. 83.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 10.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, July 8*, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Rear-Admiral Sir J. E Commerell, dated 8th July, at Gallipoli.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Gallipoli, July 8*, 1878, 12 *noon.*

RELYING upon (or rely upon) accounts received yesterday from Rhodope, not through Turkish source, Russians and Bulgarians still burn and plunder Turkish villages, violating the women, and murdering the old men and children.

No. 84.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 654.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 9*, 1878.

BLUNT telegraphed yesterday:—

"Local authorities inform me that within last five days Greek brigands have murdered twenty-three Mahommedans in Thessaly in three bodies, the first composed of three farm stewards, the second of eleven deserters, and the third of nine labourers. The brigands declare they will kill every Mahommedan they meet, and the latter are alarmed and uneasy.

"The new Governor of Epirus has requested Commander-in-chief of Thessaly to send him eight battalions of infantry in view of Greek preparations, which latter has refused, his own force being insufficient to meet the emergency."

No. 85.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 655.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 9*, 1878.

VICE-CONSUL BROPHY informs me that on the 21st ultimo Bulgarians, some in the dress of Russian infantry soldiers, plundered the Mussulman village of Karaboubir, tortured some inhabitants, and cruelly ill-used and outraged a number of women and girls. No redress can be obtained from Russian authorities.

The despatch on this subject goes by next messenger.

No. 86.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, July 9*, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 5th instant, Russian military authorities have sent British Vice-Consul at Ibraila copy of further regulations. These assume that vessels are liable for damage to the bridge, and state manner in which damage will be assessed.

No. 87.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest July 10*, 1878.

SAW Prince of Roumania yesterday, and I have the satisfaction to report that public opinion has been so modified on the subject of Bessarabia within the last few days that there is every prospect that these people will submit to the decisions of the Congress if not checked, at least without giving much more trouble. Particulars by next messenger.

No. 88.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, July 10*, 1878

TRANQUILLITY restored. No further disturbance at present apprehended.

No. 90.

Mr. Ronald Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

(Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, July 10*, 1878.

I AM informed that Persia has been admitted to the Congress. She has lately evinced great anxiety respecting her Turkish frontier, and I presume, from the Kotour clause in the San Stefano Treaty, that she will be assisted by Russia in definitively securing her Turkish frontier line. Russia will probably expect some return for her assistance, which may, however, possibly not be put forward; and Persia has of late shown herself singularly indifferent to Russian encroachments on the line of her Turcoman frontier. Perhaps it might be possible now to secure that also, and thus check the advancement of Russia towards Merve, without, however, entering into any general arrangements to maintain the absolute integrity of Persia, which would deprive us of our ability to bring, if necessary, pressure to bear on Persia through the Gulf, specially at Kasrae and Mohamrah, which is the only means we have of restraining her and preventing her from playing into the hands of Russia to our detriment without causing her serious injury.

No. 91.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 618.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 1, 1878.*

WITH reference to my dispatch No. 616 of the 19th ultimo, giving the statistics of sickness in the Russian army in Turkey, I have now the honour to inclose to your Lordship the *précis* of an article from the "Golos," by Mr. Stephen, confirming the information therein stated, and the lamentable state of the sanitary condition of the army.

It further states that the condition of the army in Asia is equally unsatisfactory, and as a proof, cites the mortality which has taken place in one regiment since November last, amounting to about 16 per cent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Précis of Article in the "Golos" of June 21, 1878.

THE "Golos," in its impression of the 21st instant, commenting on the sanitary condition of the Russian army, quotes from a letter from M. Panotine, at the head of the Society of the Red Cross, to the following effect:—

"All medicines and hospital requirements having been left north of the Balkans, the state of the hospitals is extremely critical. We are obliged to effect cures without medicines, and tend the sick and wounded without the proper necessaries, being obliged to place them on the ground without beds or any comforts whatever."

The number who have died in consequence, says the article, is at present unknown, but it cannot be small, when, notwithstanding the facilities of transporting the sick by sea, there are 52,426 invalided in the active army.

The sanitary condition of the troops in Asia is no better, if it is not worse. A correspondent informs us that in the Crimean regiment, out of 3,483 men on the list in November last, 583 had died by the 1st May; that is to say, about 16 per cent. Again, out of 452 young soldiers of the last conscription (1877), 114 have died, *i.e.*, 25 per cent. If we are to judge by these figures what must be the total of the sick!

No. 92.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 625.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an article from the "Yacht" newspaper, announcing the arrival at Cronstadt of the first ship of the volunteer fleet, the "Holsatia," from Hamburgh, which has hitherto been employed as a passenger steamer between Hamburgh and New York. This vessel will take the name of "Russia," and will be commanded by Captain Barnow, Aide-de-camp of the Emperor.

Other steamers for the volunteer fleet are shortly expected at Cronstadt.

The Naval Brigade which had been sent from St. Petersburgh and Cronstadt to organise the passage of the Danube have returned here, and have been replaced by portions of the Black Sea fleet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{\text{June 30}}{\text{July 12}}$, 1878.

LE "Yacht" nous apprend l'arrivée à Cronstadt du premier navire de la flotte volontaire, le vapeur "Holsatia," venant de Hambourg, qui est entré dans ce port Mercredi dernier.

Le "Holsatia" a 360 pieds de long, 40 pieds de large, et 23 de profondeur à l'intérieur; le navire jauge 4,816 tonnes; sa machine est de 500 forces nominales, soit 2,500 forces indicatives; il peut s'approvisionner de charbon pour 30 jours de marche à grande vitesse. Il faisait jusqu'ici le service du transport des voyageurs entre Hambourg et New York.

On attend sous peu à Cronstadt, ajoute la même feuille, d'autres vapeurs destinés à faire partie de la flotte volontaire. On dit que le "Holsatia" prendra le nom de "Russie" et qu'il sera commandé par le Capitaine Baranow, Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

Les escouades de marins qui avaient été envoyés de St. Pétersbourg et de Cronstadt pour organiser le passage du Danube sont revenues le 13 Juin, sous le commandement du Capitaine Zoubow. Elles ont été remplacées sur le Danube par des escouades de marins de la Mer Noire.

No. 93.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 626.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith an article from the "Official Gazette" publishing the regulations approved by the Emperor for the formation of a volunteer naval militia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{\text{June 30}}{\text{July 12}}$, 1878.

St. Pétersbourg, le 19 Juin, 1878.

LE "Messager Officiel" a publié hier les règlements suivants relatifs à la milice volontaire de la flotte, et qui ont été approuvés par Sa Majesté l'Empereur le 30 Mai, 1878:—

"1. La milice volontaire de la flotte est créée en vûe d'accroître en temps de guerre les forces navales actives par des navires ayant leurs commandants et leurs équipages.

"2. La milice volontaire de la flotte se compose d'hommes de constitution saine appartenant à toutes les classes et qui entrent volontairement aux conditions suivantes:—

"3. Tous ceux qui veulent faire partie de la milice volontaire de la flotte en font déclaration au Ministère de la Marine.

"4. Tout volontaire ou tout équipage volontaire qui se présentent sont mis à la disposition du Département de la Marine.

"5. Les propriétaires de navires ou les Sociétés qui veulent céder leurs bâtiments pour accroître les forces de la flotte de guerre, en font déclaration au Ministre de la Marine et y joignent l'exposé des conditions qu'ils mettent à cette cession.

"6. Si le département de la marine trouve les navires hors du service et consent aux conditions posées par leurs propriétaires, ces navires sont inscrits sur les rôles de la flotte de guerre.

"7. Les miliciens de la flotte, dès le premier jour de leur entrée au service, sont inscrits sur les rôles d'équipages actifs de la flotte de guerre. Le service des volontaires doit durer jusqu'à la fin des hostilités, après quoi tous les miliciens sont libres de sortir des rangs de la flotte.

"8. Les miliciens qui sont reconnus aptes au service maritime ont droit: les commandants, au grade de capitaine de corvette, leurs aides, à celui de lieutenant.

"9. Toute la durée du service sous pavillon de guerre des commandants, de leurs aides et des équipages de la milice volontaire de la flotte leur est compté comme service militaire actif, et pour les récompenses, ils jouissent des mêmes droits que les marins de la flotte de guerre.

"10. Tous les miliciens volontaires de la flotte sont soumis aux règlements maritimes et à toutes les lois existantes pour le service à bord des navires de la flotte de guerre.

"11. En cas de blessures, les volontaires de la flotte jouissent des mêmes droits que les marins de la flotte de guerre.

"12. Le Ministre de la marine est chargé de prendre, conformément à ces règlements, les dispositions pour l'organisation de la milice volontaire de la flotte."

No. 94.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 630.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 3, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 383 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note I have addressed to M. de Giers, informing him that a letter had been received from Mr. Long stating that he had revisited the homes and schools under his direction round Bazardjik, and found that they had happily escaped injury during the late conflict, having been respected both by the Russians and Turks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Lord A. Loftus to M. de Giers.

M. le Conseiller Privé Actuel, *St. Petersburgh, July 3, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's note of the $\frac{22nd\ May}{3rd\ June}$, communicating the information furnished to the Imperial Ministry by the Military Staff in the district of Bazardjik, that there were neither schools nor homes placed there under the direction of Mr. Long, I have the satisfaction to inform your Excellency that a letter has been received from Mr. Long stating that he has revisited these homes and schools around Bazardjik, and found that they had escaped injury during the conflict, having been respected both by the Russians and the Turks.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 95.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 634.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship an article from the "Agence Russe," reproducing a letter from Berlin on the deliberations of the Congress, which has caused some sensation here, as expressing disapproval of the course taken.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

NOUS appelons l'attention de nos lecteurs sur la lettre suivante qui nous est adressée de Berlin, écrite peut-être sous une impression trop défiante, mais qui, au point de vue

des faits et des raisonnements n'est que trop, hélas! d'une vérité presque réaliste. Ce qui est certain, c'est qu'elle est traitée d'après nature et de main de maître:—

"Malgré le silence qui entoure le Congrès, il en a assez transpiré pour qu'on puisse en apprécier le caractère général et l'issue probable.

"Jamais assemblée Européene n'a eu meilleure occasion de faire une œuvre grande et utile en nettoyant définitivement ce cloaque Oriental où la Russie s'était généreusement dévouée à porter un fer libérateur. Certes, les difficultés sont grandes. Mais elles tiennent moins aux éléments locaux—car l'Europe moderne est assez puissante pour que rien ne lui soit impossible—qu'aux rivalités, soupçons, défiances réciproques des Puissances. C'était surtout là ce que le Congrès était appelé à faire.

"Il est regrettable de devoir constater qu'il n'a pas été à la hauteur de sa tâche. Son œuvre s'en ressent. Elle est incomplète, incohérente, sans sincérité, sans vitalité. C'est une série de compromis douteux entre des prétentions divergentes, des amputations géographiques arbitraires, illogiques, sans aucun égard pour les droits et affinités des peuples, dépassant de beaucoup ce qu'on a reproché au Congrès de 1815, de funeste mémoire!

"On reprochait au Traité de San Stefano d'empiéter sur la nationalité Grecque au profit des Bulgares, et cependant l'on coupe sans façon la moitié sud de la Bulgarie pour la replacer sous la domination Turque en lui enlevant même son nom? On veut rendre le Sultan maître chez lui dans ces provinces, et, sans aucune façon, on lui enlève deux provinces: la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine, dont personne ne lui avait contesté la possession.

"On déclare la domination Turque incapable de Gouvernement et de réformes en Bosnie; mais on lui remet le Gouvernement et les réformes en Roumélie! Partout deux poids et deux mesures, sans qu'on se donne même la peine de colorer ces inconséquences.

"Comment expliquer cet étrange phénomène?

"A notre avis, il y a deux raisons. La première, c'est que les hommes d'État modernes n'ont plus comme autrefois la liberté de leur jugement et de leur action. Tous sont talonnés chez eux par des oppositions acharnées à les renverser. Il faut qu'ils opposent à ces attaques des succès apparents. Il n'y en a pas un seul qui soit à même d'apprécier les questions pour elles-mêmes et d'y trouver ces solutions qui pacifient le présent sans compromettre l'avenir. Que leur importe le lendemain! Il faut vivre et se maintenir au jour le jour soi même et le parti qui vous porte au Pouvoir. Même le grand Comte de Beaconsfield est soumis à ces lois de la vie politique moderne.

"Au début de la crise, il n'a vu qu'une chose. Succédant aux Whigs qui avaient surtout travaillé au développement matériel et économique de l'Angleterre, son parti a dû prendre le contre-pied et inaugurer une "high spirited" politique extérieure. De là toute son attitude qui depuis trois ans a paralysé tout accord Européen et amené la guerre. Une fois qu'il a eu atteint son but et manifesté la puissance et la résolution de l'Angleterre, il a voulu s'arrêter, car au fond, la guerre réelle n'entrait pas dans son programme. Le pays ne lui aurait pas su gré de lui imposer les charges et les risques d'une lutte avec la Russie. De là, les dispositions conciliantes témoignées par les Mémorandums que le "Globe" a révélés. Il ne semble pas douteux que ces sentiments pacifiques ont été sincères. Le Comte de Beaconsfield y aurait trouvé son avantage. La paix sortant du Congrès de Berlin aurait été favorablement reçue en Angleterre. Le pas lui aurait attribué le mérite d'avoir arrêté la Russie par son énergie et dicté la paix par sa modération. Son pouvoir aurait été consolidé et l'opposition réduite au silence pour bien des années. Mais est survenue l'indiscrétion du "Globe." Les intransigeants du parti ont été outrés de concessions faites d'avance. Malheureusement le Ministère, par ces excès de langage et ses exhibitions de politique à outrance, s'était interdit d'avance ces sages transactions qui de 1815 à 1850 avaient conjuré tant de crises Européennes et préservé la paix du monde.

"On trouva une contradiction éclatante entre la politique précédemment proclamée par le Cabinet et ses concessions actuelles. Que faire? Les Plénipotentiaires Anglais ont dû, pour se tirer de cet embarras, aggraver dans les détails et par leur langage au Congrès les conditions modérées auxquelles ils avaient souscrit! C'est ainsi qu'ils ont dénaturé, gâté leur propre ouvrage par des considérations de parti.

"Le Comte Andrassy s'est trouvé dans une position plus difficile encore, car il a trois oppositions à contenter.

"A toute autre époque, la Russie, arrêtée dans sa marche victorieuse, la Turquie sauvée, la Bulgarie rôdante aux Balkans, tout cela sans coup férir, de tels résultats auraient suffi à contenter l'Autriche. Mais pour prouver l'excellence de sa politique ambiguë et rester au pouvoir, il fallait offrir davantage à l'opinion publique. L'annexion de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine obtenue sans combat, était une jolie carte.

"Cela n'a pas suffi. Les Hongrois ne voyaient pas avec plaisir ce pays Slave ajouté à ceux que possède déjà la Monarchie. Il fallait, pour la faire accepter, y donner une couleur anti-Slave, et c'est ce qui a été fait.

"C'est au nom de l'anti-Slavisme que l'Autriche a obtenu de l'Europe ce cadeau d'une immoralité politique flagrante. On a représenté qu'avec la Bulgarie autonome, la Serbie et le Monténégro augmentés, on aurait créé trois éléments Slaves qui ne manqueraient pas de se réunir et de former l'embryon de ce futur Panslavisme Russe, qui est le cauchemar de l'Europe. Donc, l'Autriche a offert de se dévouer pour s'interposer entre ces éléments, les disjoindre, et y faire contrepoids—sacrifice touchant!

"Toute l'Europe y a été prise, et la Turquie s'est vu retrancher un membre par ses propres amis.

"On a été plus loin encore. On lui a persuadé qu'on lui rendait un service éclatant. En effet, d'où viennent tous ses malheurs? De ce qu'elle s'est trop étendue pour pouvoir défendre ses possessions excentriques. Ses forces n'y suffisent plus. La ligne du Danube, entre autres, n'est pas défendable. La Bosnie, l'Herzégovine, la Bulgarie du Nord sont trop éloignées du centre. La Turquie s'épuise à vouloir les garder.

"Donc, pour la fortifier, il faut la restreindre et la concentrer, comme on émonde un arbre dont la sève est affaiblie.

"La Turquie, désormais réduite à la partie au sud des Balkans, couverte par cette barrière naturelle qui peut être rendue inexpugnable, sera bien plus forte et plus en sécurité. Les flottes Anglaises et les armées Autrichiennes débouchant en Roumélie par le chemin de fer de Salonique seront toujours à même de dénoncer toute agression de la Russie.

"Voilà le plan conçu par les hommes d'État Européens, et leur accord repose sur une seule et même pensée, la défiance et la haine contre la Russie et les Slaves.

"La Russie et les Slaves sont éclairés, et doivent savoir ce qu'ils ont à faire."

No. 96.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 71.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, June 30, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of three despatches which I have addressed to his Excellency Sir A. H. Layard, viz., (1) one reporting the restoration of tranquillity in this town and the measures adopted to that end; (2) the desire of the members of the General Assembly and the Chiefs assembled in Apokorona to see me for the purpose of discussing the proposals I made to them ten days before, and (3.) the dangerous excitement of the Mussulmans of Rethymo and the despatch thither of Her Majesty's ship "Black Prince," under the command of Captain His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 96.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, June 27, 1878.*

WHEN I left Canea, in order to seek an interview with Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay, I found that all the Christians had closed their shops, and the streets in their quarter had quite a deserted appearance. Groups of soldiers had occupied certain central positions, with their arms piled before them, and there was every symptom of a panic. I lost no time in communicating to the Admiral the substance of what I had just written to your Excellency, and we agreed that it would be well, as a measure of precaution, that an iron-clad should be sent round to anchor off Canea until confidence should be re-established. I accordingly wrote his Lordship a letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, to which, however, I beg to add one correction, viz, that the man there stated to have died of his wounds still lives, and is likely to recover. The following day (yesterday) Her Majesty's ship "Defence" appeared off this town, where she is now anchored, and she had been preceded by the French gun-boat "Bisson." When I visited Canea yesterday everything wore its usual aspect, and on going to see the Vali, in the company of the Captain of the "Defence," his Excellency assured us that he had no longer any apprehension of

the peace of the town being disturbed. He explained to us that that morning a crowd of Mussulmans, numbering (as I afterwards learnt) nearly 400 men, had assembled in the suburbs of the town, and wished to come to the Konak to present a petition to his Excellency containing the following demands:—

1. That Christians outside the military cordon should no longer be allowed to visit the town.

2. That Salih Pasha, the Commander-in-chief, should retain the command of the troops.

3. That certain officers of police and other functionaries should be dismissed.

When Costaki Pasha heard what were the intentions of these men he summoned to the Konak the notable Mussulmans of the town, and, in the presence of the new Commander-in-chief, pointed out to them that the conduct of which their co-religionists had been guilty the previous day, and the objects on which they now seemed intent, had the direct result of intimidating the Christians and of obliging the Consuls to make a display of force before the town. His Excellency then asked them whether they approved the demands of the crowd gathered outside the walls, and, if they did not, he begged them to send a deputation to ask them to disperse. After some hesitation, they consented to do so, and the crowd presently disappeared.

In consequence of the excitement having now subsided, the Admiral and I concurred in the opinion that the continued presence of a ship of the formidable type of "Defence" was no longer necessary, and his Lordship has accordingly instructed Her Majesty's gun-vessel "Coquette" to moor in Canea harbour, and "Defence" to rejoin his squadron.

I have just despatched to your Excellency a telegram stating that the Mussulmans by uttering threats had caused alarm among the Christians, but that all was quiet again.

The fighting in Apokorona only lasted two days, and the losses in killed and wounded did not probably exceed 100 on either side; but the insurgents cannot but retain a very bitter feeling against the troops, who, by the burning of their villages, and their brutal treatment of helpless women and old men, have put all present hopes of reconciliation out of the question. It is now well-known that the regular troops and not the Bashi-Bazouks were guilty of the excesses complained of, and they have been brought home to a particular battalion of Syrian Redifs recruited in the district of Acre. I have the honour to inclose a translation of a letter which the Provisional Government have addressed to myself and colleagues, and there they cite the names of the women and old men that had been put to death by the soldiers. As they give the names it will be easy hereafter to prove or disprove their statements. The Vali told me that a Government officer at Galybes had caused some women to be escorted to this town who had been rescued from a cruel death by some Bashi-Bazouks. There seems little doubt, indeed, that some barbarous scenes have been witnessed during the last advance of the troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 96.

Consul Sandwith to Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay.

My Lord, *Canea, June 25, 1878.*

IN an interview which I had with the Governor-General this morning his Excellency informed me that extreme irritation existed in Canea and in other parts of Crete against the Christians, and that he was in some alarm lest an outbreak of Mussulman fanaticism might occur. Threats and personal violence have been freely used by the latter. Several Christians have been wounded, and one has just died of his wounds.

When I left Canea at noon to-day all the shops of the Christians were shut, and the streets were almost deserted. Aware that the authority of Costaki Pasha has been seriously undermined by the misunderstanding between him and the Commander-in-chief, and feeling that should the news suddenly come of a decision by the Great Powers concerning the future of this island adverse to the wishes of the Moslem minority, an ebullition of feeling against the Christians might be the result, I have the honour to draw your Lordship's attention to the present serious state of affairs, with a view to your adopting such measures for protecting the lives and property of foreign subjects as may seem to you to be required. I would take the liberty of suggesting the sending an ironclad belonging to your Lordship's squadron to anchor off the town, as a step calculated to inspire public confidence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 96.

The Provisional Government of Crete to the Consuls of the Great Powers and the Consul of Greece.

(Traduction.)

M. le Consul, *Zizifé d'Apokorona, le* 13 *Juin*, 1878.

NOUS portons à votre connaissance qu'à l'aube du Dimanche l'armée régulière campée à Calyves avec un petit nombre de Bachi-Bozouks attaqua soudainement les villages Armenous et Tsivaru, et obligea nos gardes armées à se retirer, et après une résistance opiniâtre, réussit à entrer dans les dits villages.

Entendant la fusillade, le Chef, A. Gogoni, campé à Stilo, courut avec ses hommes dans le village Armenous. Informé alors par les femmes et les enfants qui fuyaient devant la férocité ordinaire des Turcs, que l'armée régulière se livrait à des massacres, il s'élança avec toutes ses forces sur l'ennemi et réussit à le chasser du village, qu'il occupa à son tour. Mais jusqu'à ce que les Turcs se visent dans la nécessité de se retirer, treize personnes étaient tombées victimes de la cruauté Turque, d'une manière qui fait naître répulsion et horreur. Nous rapportons ici, nom par nom, les victimes et le genre de leur mort.

Ils égorgèrent la femme d'Euthimio Colobitaki; ils coupèrent le bras et ensuite la tête du quinquagénaire Constantin Kalvadhakis, et assassinèrent sa femme à coups de couteau, introduisant le couteau par les parties génitales et le conduisant jusqu'au pharynx et ensuite ils les brulèrent; ils assassinèrent à coups de couteau Jean Pondicaki, âgé de 110 ans. Ils brulèrent vif un certain Sergos, âgé de 50 ans, et Joseph Halvadaki avec sa vieille mère; ils tuèrent d'un coup de fusil la nommée Stellani Piniataki, et ils firent prisonnière la nommée Kyriaki, femme de Euthimio Fereskaki, jeune de 20 ans, renommée pour sa beauté, qui fut violée successivement par un grand nombre, puis assassinée, après qu'on eût d'abord égorgé sous ses yeux son fils unique, Nicolas. Tout cela seulement à Armenous; à Tsivaru ils égorgèrent deux enfants en bas âge d'Anagnosti Melissaki.

En outre ils brulèrent toutes les gerbes qu'ils trouvèrent dans les aires et les villages Armenous, Tsivaru Neokorió. Il va sans dire que cette conduite des Turcs, et en particulier de l'armée régulière, devait exaspérer les nôtres, et elle fut cause d'une bataille meurtrière qui dura quinze heures, et recommença le jour suivant à Neokorió.

En vous exposant ce qui précède, nous remarquons avec regret, M. le Consul, qu'à l'époque où les Grandes Puissances Européennes se sont réunies pour trouver un moyen de délivrer les Chrétiens de l'Orient de la férocité des Turcs, le peuple Crétois, dont l'histoire est écrite à chaque page avec du sang, et dont la seule faute est de demander sa liberté, est laissé en proie à la barbarie Turque, devant seul combattre l'Empire Ottoman.

Dans l'espoir que vous voudrez bien, M. le Consul, en transmettant la présente pièce au Gouvernement que vous représentez si dignement, défendre les droits du peuple Crétois, nous vous prions, &c.

Nous avons, &c.
Les Membres,
(Signé) CH. ASCOUTZI.
E. PAPPADAKIS.
T. SITINAS.
N. J. MANDHACAKIS.

Le Secrétaire-Général.
(Signé) J. C. PAPPADAKIS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 96.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, June* 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I yesterday received a letter from the Cretan Provisional Government dated from the village of Zizifé in Apokorona, which invited me to meet the members of the General Assembly and the Chiefs in order to discuss with them the terms which had been offered the insurgents as set forth in my despatch of the 20th instant.

In that despatch I made the following reflection:—

"On the whole it appeared to me that the moment was almost past for reconciling the two hostile communities, and contented myself with laying the proposals of which I was the bearer before my hearers without urging their acceptance upon them. When I returned and informed Costaki Pasha of the manner in which the Mussulmans were being robbed of their crops, his Excellency was greatly disappointed, and agreed with me that it had become more than ever difficult to bring about an understanding between the two parties."

If it appeared difficult at the time when that was written to reconcile the Christians and Mussulmans, much more is it so now after the fighting that took place in Apokorona last week, and the bad usage to which the Christians of this neighbourhood were subjected by the Moslems immediately afterwards. I reflected, therefore, that when it became known that the Government was about to grant the insurgents terms as the price of their submission which the Mussulmans in their present mood would certainly consider humiliating, it would tend to exasperate them still more. I accordingly went to see Costaki Pasha, to whom I communicated my misgivings. His Excellency took the same view of the matter, and thought it extremely difficult, not to say impossible, to bring about a reconciliation until their heated passions had time to cool down. This they might be expected to do provided no fresh attacks are made by the troops, the invariable result of these attacks being the useless destruction of villages, and sometimes the slaughter of helpless women and children. The Vali, however, was hopeful of some arrangement being come to later on, and I was very glad to learn from him that although in some of the cazas in this half of the island, particularly in Selino, as well as in Milopotami and Amarium, in the district of Rethymo, the crops seemed irrevocably lost to the Moslems, it was quite otherwise in all the eastern half of the island, where the Moslems, either protected by the troops or with the consent of the Christians, had reaped and were now threshing out their grain.

When I left the head-quarters of the Provisional Government on the 18th instant I told them to communicate their decision to me in writing. They are now anxious to see me again, but before responding to their invitation I think it advisable to put your Excellency in possession of the circumstances which make me hesitate to carry out the original programme as set forth at the close of my despatch of the 27th ultimo. I have, therefore, the honour to request the favour of a telegram advising me how to act in the altered position of affairs, and I have written to the Provisional Government to acquaint them with my having sought fresh instructions from your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—I beg to correct an error in my despatch of the 24th instant, where I stated that the village of Epano Chori, containing 200 houses, had been burnt by the troops. The village I ought to have named was Neochoris, a much smaller place, which was not burnt, but pillaged.

T. B. S.

Inclosure 5 in No. 96.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, June* 30, 1878.

THE excitement which existed here a few days ago having calmed down, has now travelled on to Rethymo, having been carried thither by means of a letter supposed to have been written by the notorious Hassan Effendi Kavouraki. It is certain that a caïque took a letter, addressed to a notable Mussulman of that town, three days ago, the immediate effect of which was the convening of a meeting of the leading Mahommedans, who the following day got together a crowd of their co-religionists to the number of 600, and who have ever since set in consultation on a hill overlooking the town. Here they drew up the following resolutions:—

"1. That the Christian peasants be not allowed to enter the town.

"2. That the Mussulmans be freely allowed to carry arms.

"3. That the zaptiés who are in prison for having pillaged the village of Atzipapulo, near Rethymo, be released.

"4. That the Mutessarif of Rethymo (Essad Bey) be dismissed.

"5. That three days be allowed for these demands to be complied with; and in case of refusal, the Moslems will do something very bad."

The Consular Agent at Rethymo had previously informed me by telegraph of the threatening aspect of the Mussulmans, and begged that a vessel of war might be sent to re-assure the Christians. Before taking any decided steps I yesterday went to his Excel-

lency the Governor-General, who confirmed in every respect the disquieting report I had received. He informed me that he had the day before dispatched an iron-clad to Rethymo, and had that moment requested the Admiral to prepare another vessel to convey thither the Chief of the police with some zaptiés, whose report was expected to-day. I told his Excellency that if he desired it I would request the English Admiral to send one of the iron-clads of his squadron to anchor off Rethymo, but he agreed it would be better to await the report of the Chief of police, and if that proved to be alarming, he would then avail himself of my offer.

This morning at 10 A.M. the Vali sent me a telegram, just received from the Christian inhabitants of Rethymo, in which they implore his Excellency to afford them efficient protection, the attitude of the Moslems becoming more and more menacing; for otherwise they declare they desire to leave the town with their families.

Costaki Pasha remarks on this telegram that though the report of the Chief of police was less alarming, he is not quite sure whether the means at his disposal would prove efficacious for the preservation of order. On receiving this communication I lost no time in requesting the Admiral to detach an iron-clad from his squadron for the purpose of proceeding to Rethymo without delay, in order to afford the Christian inhabitants such protection as the nature of the case allowed. It is likely that the iron-clad will appear off Rethymo before sunset this evening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—The Admiral has just written to inform me that he has directed Her Majesty's ship "Black Prince" to proceed without delay to Rethymo. I had requested that a vessel be dispatched thither "for the purpose of reassuring the Christian population, and if necessary, of affording them such protection as the nature of the case allows." On this his Lordship observes, "I have no instructions regarding the protection of the Christian population other than what may be termed the foreign or European community, and I shall give instructions accordingly." He adds, "I do not doubt that the presence of 'Black Prince' will tend greatly to re-assure the peaceable part of the population," and in this opinion I fully concur.

I have just learnt that Costaki Pasha has arrested Hassan Bey Kavouraki, mentioned in this despatch, and will send him out of the island by the Austrian steamer now in port.

T. B. S.

No. 97.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Canea, Crete, July 10, 1878.*

MOSLEM irregulars have been pillaging many villages in the district south of Candia.

No. 99.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 657.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 10, 1878.*

THE Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople earnestly requests your Lordship to obtain some specific mention of Armenians in the Definitive Treaty of Peace, and that they may claim the protection of the foreign Powers hereafter in case of need. He states that as the Armenians could not persuade the Congress to accept the Armenian constitution which they submitted to it, the only hope left to them was the protection of England. I consented to telegraph this to your Lordship, but without encouraging Patriarch to believe that his request could be entertained.

No. 100.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 658.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 10, 1878.*

FREEMAN telegraphs that tranquillity is restored. No further disturbance at present apprehended.

No. 102.

Lord Lyons to Mr. Cross.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, July 11, 1878.*

FOLLOWING sent to Berlin:—

"M. Lesseps has asked me to convey to Her Majesty's Government his congratulations on their occupation of Cyprus, and to say that he rejoices at it both as a Frenchman and as President of the Suez Canal Company, and considers that it insures the safety and prosperity of the Canal."

No. 103.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 89. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, June 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the translation in abstract of a letter addressed, on the 15th instant, to my Greek colleague by one of his countrymen residing at Erzeroum.

It gives a graphic description of the oppression to which the Mussulmans and the Greeks are subjected on the part of the native Armenians, who have been freely enrolled as policemen.

I hear, however, from another source, that the Russians admit in this force any one capable of performing the duties of the office, which is well remunerated, without regard to nationality, and that there are in the local police a few Persians, and even a few Turks.

The letter in question may be exaggerated in its wording, but it is nevertheless the expression of the feelings of the Greeks, who consider that they suffer under the present system more than they did under the Turkish administration.

Several thousand Mussulmans have already emigrated from Erzeroum, and the exodus does not seem to be at an end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Letter from a Greek residing at Erzeroum to the Greek Consul at Trebizond.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, June $\frac{3}{15}$, 1878.*

THE government of our town, as well as the settlement of all affairs (whether commercial or not), is vested into the hands of the Municipal Council, in which there are two or three Mussulmans and countless Armenians, under the presidency of the Russian Chief of Police, Kampsärnkanoff, himself an Armenian.

The good order of the town is confided to about 100 Armenian policemen, who were formerly lending their hand to prostitution, and now brag under the sword; and who, instead of keeping order, cause disorder and scandal, while the Russians remain indifferent.

I shall say in a word that the honour of the townspeople has been given over to people without conscience, who tread it under foot in whatever way and whenever they choose.

Russia, in order to flatter the Armenians, has appointed, during the present war, nothing but Armenian officers, the Commander-in-chief included. The native Armenians, seeing so many of their race wearing epaulettes and speaking their sonorous tongue, have been under the impression that their ancient Empire had revived, and that Melikoff was not a Russian officer, but an Emperor of Armenia, and began to persecute at first the Turks, and lately also our countrymen the Greeks, whom they hate more than the Turks, and who suffer in consequence numberless vexations at the hands of this refuse of society called policemen.

The Greeks have not accepted Russian service, especially that of policemen, but have preferred to gain their living by the sweat of their brows, acting at the same time kindly towards the Turks, who had in former times similarly acted towards them.

The conduct of the Greeks, so diametrically opposed to that of the Armenians, has naturally awakened in the Turks the greatest gratitude towards the first, and the greatest irritation, which is now intent, towards the second.

The undisguised expression of the gratitude of the Turks has augmented the hatred of the Armenians, who act against the Greeks as they like with impunity.

NOTE.—The writer ends by begging his Consul to obtain that the Greeks be protected by the French Consul at Erzeroum.

No. 104.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 12.)

(No. 660.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 11, 1878, 12·45 P.M.

PORTE complains that Congress has decided that Austria shall occupy and administer Bosnia and Herzegovina, without adding the reservation that, according to condition of Turkish Plenipotentiaries, it had been previously agreed that an understanding as to conditions should be come to between her and Turkey. The Turkish Plenipotentiaries have been instructed, Grand Vizier informs me, to insist upon this reservation.

A Grand Council is to be held to-day to consider the question of rectification of Greek frontiers.

There is a strong feeling at present against it.

I have advised Grand Vizier to endeavour to come to an understanding with Greece.

No. 104.*

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July* 4, 1878.

AUSTRIAN mobilization meets with difficulties. Gross cases of insubordination among Slavonic troops have called for special measures; and at Neusatz open declarations of sympathy with Slavs, not of Austrian nationality, have been expressed by a whole company of Austrian Slav military.

No. 105.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Cross.—(*Received July* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July* 12, 1878.

I HAVE sent following to Layard to-day:—

(No. 25. Congress Special.)

"The Congress has resolved that the Ambassadors at Constantinople should arrange with the Porte for the immediate despatch of an European Commission to the Rhodope and neighbouring districts, charged to verify on the spot the gravity of the facts alleged with regard to the sufferings of the population, and to endeavour to remedy them as far as possible. You will concert with your colleagues, and take immediate steps for carrying out this resolution."

No. 106.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Berlin, July* 12, 1878.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that the Congress has resolved that the Ambassadors of the Powers at Constantinople should arrange with the Porte for the immediate dispatch of an European Commission to the Rhodope and neighbouring districts, charged to verify on the spot the gravity of the facts alleged with regard to the sufferings of the population, and to endeavour to remedy them as far as possible. I have to instruct your Excellency to concert with your colleagues, and take immediate steps for carrying out this resolution of the Congress.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 107.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 309.)
My Lord, *Athens, June* 29, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on the 26th instant, I received a telegram from Mr. Vice-Consul Blunt from Larissa, dated the 24th instant, in which he suggested that I should urge the Greek Government to direct the Greek Consul at Larissa to accompany him to Armyro, to aid him in making a final effort to induce the refugees in Greece to return to their homes. I endeavoured immediately to obtain an interview with the Prime Minister, who is now acting as Minister for Foreign Affairs, but I have not been able to see him till this afternoon. I had, however, left at his office a summary of the contents of Mr. Blunt's telegram to me, so that when I saw him he had fully considered the question. His Excellency told me that the reports he received from Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia represented those provinces as in a very unsettled state, and that such being the case, although most desirous of getting rid of the refugees, who he said still numbered 18,000 according to last reports, he did not like to assume the responsibility of urging them through the Greek authorities to return, and that he therefore thought it best not to interfere officially in the matter.

I read to M. Commondouros the greater portion of a Report addressed to Sir Austen Layard by Mr. Blunt, dated the 21st instant, which speaks of bands of robbers in different parts of Thessaly, and concludes by mentioning that Ali Saib Pasha has despatched troops to Armyro to re-occupy the Turkish blockhouses near the border, and recommending that the Porte should urge him to act with moderation and circumspection, and I particularly called M. Commoundouros' attention to this point.

In the face of this Report of Mr. Blunt, which reached me last night, and of a Report from the Greek Consul at Larissa, extracts of which were read to me at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as to the unsettled state of Thessaly, I did not feel that I could urge the Greek Government to adopt a different course to that determined upon by M. Commoundouros, and I telegraphed to-day to Mr. Blunt, giving him the reasons for which the Greek Government had declined to adopt his suggestion.

I also expressed to him the hope that the Turkish frontier authorities would act with moderation, and I was especially prompted to do this as Photiades Bey had told me

yesterday that he had heard that a Bimbashi on the frontiers had threatened to fire upon the refugees, and to pursue them as brigands if they came into Thessaly to collect their crops and then proceeded to return with them to Greece. Photiades Bey said to me at the same time that he had telegraphed to the Porte recommending that the Bimbashi in question should be ordered to act with moderation.

M. Commoundouros expressed to me his earnest desire to avoid fresh complications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 108.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 52.)
My Lord, *Galatz, June 29, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 50, Political, of the 19th instant, on the subject of the Russian military movements, I have the honour to inform you that the Russian officers therein alluded to as having been engaged in surveying the high ground in the vicinity of Galatz, left on the 20th instant, and no measures have been taken at present for raising fortifications.

Small detachments of Russian infantry have arrived by the Bender-Galatz railway, and have passed on by rail in the direction of Bucharest, and a certain amount of ammunition has also passed by the same lines of railway.

On the 26th instant, Mr. Vice-Consul Morphy reported the arrival at Ibraïla of about 3,000 Russian infantry and a battery of light field artillery; these troops, I have since ascertained, came from Jassy; I have no news of their having left Ibraïla.

About eighteen of the heavy guns that were parked here have been removed and shipped, apparently either for Toultcha or Sulina; there remain now twelve guns at Galatz.

On the 15th instant there were at Ismail 1,500 Russian infantry and two light field batteries. General Gulitzki, commanding the 7th Russian Army Corps, inspected these troops on the 14th instant, and afterwards left for Odessa, viâ Sulina.

On the 16th instant, there were at Kilia 300 Russian infantry and one field battery; 500 men had been sent to aid in the construction of the batteries at Sulina. The men belonged to the 36th division of the 7th Army Corps. There were no batteries constructed at Kilia.

At Bolgrad, on the same date, there were 300 Russian infantry and one field battery: butts had been made for rifle practice, but no fortifications.

At Isaktcha, on the 17th instant, there were no Russian troops.

A new line of telegraph has been completed from Reni to Isaakcha; it runs from Reni to a point three-quarters of a mile below Isaakcha on the north bank of the river, and crosses the Danube at a place known as the "Old Roman Fortification," where, in 1806, there were the Turkish quarantine sheds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 109.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, June 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the copy of a note which I received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting the massacre of Christians by Albanians in Old Servia, together with copies of the answer I sent his Excellency and of the telegram I addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

Your Lordship will notice the last paragraph in M. Grouitch's note, which has all the appearance of being made with the object of justifying any future steps the Government may take for the ostensible pretext of protecting the Christians, and the more substantial object of obtaining a footing beyond the present line of demarcation.

The Russians themselves complain of the encroaching tendencies of the Servians;

and I have deemed it necessary in my reply to counsel the exercise of prudence and caution on the part of the Servian authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 109.

M. Grouitch to Mr. Jerningham.

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, le $\frac{14}{26}$ Juin*, 1878.

C'EST avec une vive douleur que je porte à votre connaissance les faits suivants qui ont eu lieu dans le nahia de Ghilané (Vieille Serbie).

Les Albanais établis à Katchanik, véritable nid de brigands, aidés de leurs co-nationaux des endroits voisins, ont tué depuis le $\frac{1}{13}$ jusqu'au $\frac{15}{27}$ Mai dernier quatre-vingt Chrétiens, et du $\frac{16}{28}$ au $\frac{17}{29}$, trente-deux.

Parmi les tués se trouvent Déna Andjelkovitch, du village Nechigné; les frères Georges et Ivko, de Zébinatz; Georges Filitch, de Ralavatz; Déna Simitch, de Kamenitza; Jovesa Shikovitch, de Schlipatchnitza, assommés à coups de bâton; trois frères Simitch, du village Straga; Stoian Ristich, et Sima Andjelkovitch, de Bouchinatz; Milosh Giovitch et Stefan Péritch, de Firinatz; Stoian Vladénovitch, Fila Péschitch, Zvelko, Savitch, et Stanomina Filitch, de Grizina; Rado Velkovitch, d'Ainatz ont été tellement battus qu'il n'y a pas d'espoir de pouvoir les sauver.

Neuf femmes du village Kortadinatz ont été jetées par les gardes Turques dans une prison de Ghilané réservée aux mâles, et là on laisse les Tziganes exercer sur ces malheureuses tous les actes de brutalité.

Ces faits ont été relatés par Miloch Vladénoditch, de Grizina; Pierre Vaneskovitch, de Moesara; Dina Lazitch, de Miganovatz; et Philippe Giokitch, de Bouchinatz; quatre individus qui sont parvenus à se sauver à Vranja.

A un d'entre eux, le nommé Dina Lazitch, les Albinais ont brûlé la maison avec toutes les dépendances.

Je vous prie, M. l'Agent, de vouloir bien intéresser votre Ambassade à Constantinople pour qu'elle daigne faire auprès de la Sublime Porte les démarches nécessaires pour faire cesser le plus tôt possible cet état de choses fort compromettant pour le maintien de la tranquillité de l'un et de l'autre côté de la ligne démarcatoire.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) GROUITCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 109.

Mr. Jerningham to M. Grouitch.

M. le Ministre, *Belgrade, le 26 Juin*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre note du $\frac{14}{26}$ courant qui ne m'a été remise qu'aujourd'hui.

J'y constate avec le plus grand regret les massacres que votre Excellence m'y signale dans le nahia de Ghilané (Vieille Serbie), et je m'empresserai de porter ces faits déplorables à la connaissance du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères à Londres ainsi qu'à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté à Constantinople.

Je ne doute pas des représentations qui seront faites en commun par toutes les Puissances auprès de la Sublime Porte, pour instituer une enquête sérieuse sur les tristes événements que votre note énumère, mais je ne puis en même temps m'empêcher d'exprimer l'espoir que la prudence et la sagesse du Gouvernement Serbe préviendront tout ce qui pourrait nuire au maintien de la tranquillité de l'un et de l'autre côté de la ligne actuelle de démarcation entre la Turquie et la Serbie.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

Inclosure 3 in No. 109.

Mr. Jerningham to Sir A. H. Layard.

Belgrade, June 26, 1878, 9 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs here writes to complain of massacres of about a 100 Christians by Albanians of Kavchanin, in old Servia, and hopes Porte will take measures to prevent renewal, as it may lead to difficulties on both sides of demarcation line.

Believe latter consideration to be a pretext for future action, and have recommended great caution while I have given promise of acquainting your Excellency with facts of the case.

H. E. H. J.

No. 110.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 96. Confidential.)

Belgrade, July 4, 1878.

My Lord,

A CERTAIN amount of ill-feeling appears to have found expression among some of the Servian troops of Austria during the process of mobilization, and I have heard, on unimpeachable authority, that at Neusatz, which is known to be a centre of Slav agitation, a whole company openly declared its sympathy with its Slav brethren of Russian and Servian nationalities.

Measures were at once taken to suppress such cross-insubordination, and prevent its occurrence being known.

The fact, however, appears to be undeniable; but, at the same time, no greater importance is to be attached to it than as one of the many signs which show how the current of Slav opinion is made to run.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 111.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 355.)

Rome, July 8, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Radical press, which has lately attacked the Government for their passive attitude with regard to the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has now also diverted its attention to the disregard manifested for the interests of Greece, and, indeed, mercilessly criticizes the fruitless results of the Congress. The Radical paper, the "Riforma," censures the conduct of Count Corti most severely, and unhesitatingly urges the President of the Council to dispense with his Excellency's further services as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 112.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 487.)

Vienna, July 8, 1878.

My Lord,

IN transmitting to your Lordship Mr. Jerningham's despatch No. 96, reporting the mutinous conduct of the Austrian Slav troops at Neusatz, I have the honour to inform you that I have inquired of Major Gonne whether he had heard anything of the occurrence. He informs me that these exhibitions of insubordination constantly occur when the reserves are brought together, but that there has been nothing unusual or of any political significance on the present occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 113.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 638.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, July 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your lordship a *précis* by Mr. Michell from the "Golos," on the sanitary condition of the Russian army in European Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Précis of Article in the "Golos."

Sanitary condition of Russian Army in European Turkey.—The present sanitary condition of the Russian army in Bulgaria and Roumelia is, according to information furnished by the Russian press, very unsatisfactory.

According to the "Golos," up to the $\frac{13}{30}$th June, 17,900 invalided soldiers had been despatched by sea from San Stefano to Russian Black Sea ports. The correspondent of the "Novoe Vremia" describes the condition of the Russian hospitals in Bulgaria as most lamentable. Not only are the wards packed full with sick and wounded, but even the corridors and passages leading to the wards are crowded with invalids of every description, the patients in many places occupying the bare floors, which reek with impurities. At the same time the medical treatment is described as being very imperfect, owing to the smallness of the medical staff. To make up, as far as possible, for this deficiency in medical officers, the senior students of the Military Medical Academy of St. Petersburgh have been invited to volunteer for medical service as dressers to the Russian hospitals at the seat of war. To induce as many students as possible to offer their services, good pay and allowances have been promised, and the time spent by them in the hospitals will be reckoned as active military service. Dressers in private practice are also being engaged on liberal terms for service with the Russian army.

At the request of General Todtleben, increased hospital accommodation is being prepared by the authorities at Nikolaieff, Sebastopol, and Theodosia for the Russian sick despatched from San Stefano. The Russian Red Cross Society has also sent additional beds and lazarette appurtenances for 1,100 men to Kieff and Kharkoff, from whence these appurtenances will, in case of need, be forwarded to the Russian Black Sea ports.

The "Golos," of the $\frac{26\text{th June}}{8\text{th July}}$, publishes a telegram from San Stefano, according to which the total number of sick in the Russian army, up to the $\frac{\text{[illegible]}}{\text{[illegible]}}$, is stated to be 40,125 men. Of this total the number of invalids in the South Balkan army amounted to 25,782 men; in the detachment south of the Balkans, to 10,579 men; and in the rear of the army, to 5,764 men.

According to information received, the sickness is somewhat diminishing.

Between the $\frac{\text{[illegible]}}{\text{[illegible]}}$th June, and the $\frac{\text{[illegible]}}{\text{[illegible]}}$, 4,000 invalids were shipped to Russia.

The number of sick despatched daily from San Stefano to Odessa and other Russian ports in the Black Sea has, according to Russian accounts, averaged about 500 men.

(Signed) JOHN MICHELL.

St. Petersburgh, July 8, 1878.

No. 114.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 555.)

Paris, July 11, 1878.

My Lord,

M. DE LESSEPS has requested me to convey to Her Majesty's Government his hearty congratulations on the British occupation of the Island of Cyprus.

He came to see me expressly to make this request, and he said to me that he rejoiced, both as a Frenchman and as President of the Suez Canal Company, at the establishment of English authority in the island, and considered that it would have an excellent effect in securing the safety and prosperity of the Canal.

He added that he was aware that at the present moment the Convention between Great Britain and the Porte of the 4th June was causing a great deal of irritation in France, but he should, himself, he said, take every suitable opportunity of expressing,

privately and publicly, the sentiments he had requested me to communicate to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 115.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 556.)

My Lord, *Paris, July 11, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 549 of yesterday, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship an article which is published this morning by the "République Française," on the subject of the Convention of the 4th June.

It urges that the French Plenipotentiaries must not, on any condition, nor in any form, sanction this Convention, and that if it be not submitted to the assembled Plenipotentiaries at Berlin the Representatives of France must seriously consider whether they can, with safety to French rights and French interests, sign the final act of the Congress, which will be incomplete, inasmuch as, outside of it, a Treaty will have been concluded which gives Cyprus to England, and makes the Sultan a vassal to the British Crown.

I inclose also an article from the "Journal des Débats," which discusses the same subject in a different spirit. It points out that England, having failed to obtain the assistance of any other Power in support of her interests in Asia, was obliged to act alone. It expresses a hope that Austria will superintend reforms in Turkey in Europe in the same manner as England is to superintend reforms in Turkey in Asia; and it asks whether it is better that Russia, a conquering and despotic Power, should have unrestricted license in Asia, or that she should be confronted by a politically and commercially liberal Power like England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 115.

Extract from the "République Française."

L'OPINION publique continue à être vivement préoccupé de l'affaire de Chypre, et cette préoccupation n'est que trop légitime aussi bien en Angleterre que sur le Continent, et notamment dans les Etats qui ont des intérêts dans le bassin de la Méditerranée. Ce n'est pas seulement de l'annexion soudaine d'une île vaste et fertile située au fond de cette mer qui a été comme le berceau de la civilization, que l'Europe doit s'émouvoir, mais bien encore des conséquences de la situation créée par la Convention du 14 Juin. Rien que cette date accentue le caractère tout-à-fait étrange de la conduite du Cabinet de Saint James; lorsque la réunion d'un Congrès a été proposée, le Gouvernement Britannique, on se le rappelle, a vivement insisté pour que tous les points visés par le Traité de San Stefano fussent soumis au verdict de l'Europe; cette exigence fut même la pierre d'achoppement sur la voie de l'entente commune, et retarda de plus de trois mois la rencontre des Plénipotentiaries à Berlin; les Ministres Anglais disaient avec justesse qu'un état de choses constitué par les Parties Contractantes d'un Traité ne pouvait être modifié en dehors de ces mêmes Parties Contractantes. Nous avons applaudi alors au langage de l'Angleterre, nous avons soutenu sa politique, car ce langage et cette politique servaient à la défense du droit des gens. Quand nous avons félicité le Gouvernement Anglais de son attitude, nous étions du partie du vrai et du juste: ce n'est donc pas nous qui changeons si nous le blâmons, c'est lui qui manque aux principes posés et maintenus par lui. A l'heure présente, logiques avec nous mêmes, fidèles à nos doctrines et à nos convictions, nous estimons que le Congrès a le devoir étroit d'évoquer cette affaire de Chypre et de soumettre la Convention Anglo-Turque à son approbation. S'il en est ainsi, les Plénipotentiaires Européens auront à examiner l'opportunité et la légitimité des combinaisons de Lord Beaconsfield et de ses collègues; pourront-ils accepter que l'Empire Ottoman en Asie, mais en Asie Mineure et en Syrie, tombe sous le protectorat de l'Angleterre? Pourront-ils supporter que le Gouvernement Anglais devienne le Suzerain à la deuxième puissance du Vicerοi d'Egypte? Nous ne le pensons pas. L'Angleterre a obtenu de la Porte l'engagement d'introduire dans ses Etats

Asiatiques les réformes nécessaires au bon gouvernement de ses sujets Chrétiens ou autres: en conséquence, les Agents Anglais, qui vont être multipliés dans toute la Turquie d'Asie, deviendront d'abord les surveillants des fonctionnaires Ottomans, et, pareils aux résidents attitrés auprès des princes indigènes de l'Inde, ne tarderont pas à se transformer en véritables gouverneurs ou directeurs politiques. Il y a là une situation qui menace de troubler l'équilibre de l'Europe et du monde presque autant que si la Russie détenait les Détroits. Soumise au Congrès, la Convention du 4 Juin est donc inacceptable, au moins pour les Puissances, qui, comme l'Autriche, la France, et l'Italie, ont des intérêts directs et considérables dans ce qu'on appelait communément naguère le Levant. Nous n'avons pas à dicter leur conduite aux Gouvernements étrangers; nous nous contentons de constater aujourd'hui que la nouvelle qui nous a émus hier n'a pas produit une moindre émotion en Italie; mais nous pouvons émettre un avis sur l'attitude que la nature des choses impose à nos Représentants; c'est, nous le répétons, de ne sanctionner à aucun prix et d'aucune façon que ce soit les Traités, Conventions, Stipulations, etc., qui, par l'annexion de Chypre, menacent de donner à une Puissance étrangère à la Méditerranée la prépondérance dans cette mer, et qui, par le protectorat de la Turquie, tendent à faire de cette même Puissance la suzeraine de l'Empire Ottoman. Si la Convention du 4 Juin est soumise au Congrès et approuvée, nos Plénipotentiaires n'ont qu'à refuser d'apposer leurs signatures à l'acte qui la confirmerait; si elle n'est pas soumise au Congrès, ils ont encore à examiner très-sérieusement s'il est possible de réserver efficacement les intérêts et les droits de notre pays en signant un instrument diplomatique incomplet et en dehors duquel ont été pris et exécutés des arrangements de la nature du Traité qui donne Chypre à l'Angleterre et fait du Sultan le vassal de la Couronne Britannique.

Inclosure 2 in No. 115.

Extract from the "Journal de Débats."

Paris, Mercredi, 10 Juillet.

NOUS avons enfin sous les yeux le texte de la Convention qui a été conclue le 4 Juin entre l'Angleterre et la Porte, ce qui nous permet de rectifier ou de préciser quelques appréciations ou quelques doutes que nous exprimions hier. D'abord, la Convention constitue un contrat directe entre l'Angleterre et la Porte, et il ne sera pas soumis au Congrès. Ensuite elle s'applique seulement aux possessions que la Porte conserve en Asie en vertu du Traité Définitif de Paix. Il résulte enfin de ses termes que la Convention était conditionnelle parce qu'elle ne devait entrer en vigueur que si Batoum, Ardahan, Kars, ou une quelconque de ces places restaient entre les mains des Russes. Elles y restent toutes les trois: donc, la Convention aura immédiatement tout son effet.

Quant à la Convention en elle-même, elle est aujourd'hui l'objet de toutes les conversations, de toutes les discussions, de toutes les polémiques de la presse. Le premier sentiment qui s'est manifesté est une vive surprise à laquelle nous n'avons pris qu'une part très-modeste. Sans savoir exactement de quoi il s'agissait dans les négociations échangées entre l'Angleterre et la Porte, nous n'étions pas très-éloignés de nous en douter. Dans notre numéro du 22 Juin dernier, nous avons analysé quelques articles publiés par le "Times," immédiatement après le retour de Comte Schouvaloff à Londres. Que disaient ces articles? Ils disaient formellement que l'Angleterre devait obtenir "une forte position en Asie." Quel genre de position? "Une position qui permettra à l'Angleterre d'exercer un contrôle sérieux sur l'administration Turque, et surtout d'arrêter le développement de la puissance Russe." Ce contrôle de l'Angleterre devait prendre la forme d'un protectorat que le "Times" assimilait au pouvoir exercé par les résidents politiques Anglais auprès des souverains indigènes de l'Inde, et ce protectorat se cachait sous la phrase un peu mystérieuse du Mémorandum Salisbury-Schouvaloff: "Le devoir de sauvegarder l'Empire Ottoman en Asie reposera désormais d'une manière spéciale sur l'Angleterre." "Certes," écrivions nous, "il y a là pour l'Angleterre un avantage considérable, et il nous tarde fort de connaître le texte du titre que le lui assure." On le voit par ces citations, pour nous, pour tous ceux qui ont suivi d'un œil attentif des événements préparés de longue main, il ne peut pas y avoir dans la publication de la Convention Anglo-Turque une de ces surprises qui dérangent tous les calculs, surprennent l'imagination, et provoquent, suivant les points de vue divers ou une satisfaction sans bornes ou une colère sans retenue. Nous ne savions pas qu'il s'agissait précisément de l'Ile de Chypre, mais nous pensions bien qu'il s'agissait de quelque chose d'approchant. On nous

permettra donc de parler de la Convention Anglo-Turque avec un calme parfait. Les procédés diplomatiques dont s'est servi Lord Beaconsfield sont insolités, inopinés, incorrects. L'Europe pourrait s'en plaindre, et nous avons parfaitement le droit de les regretter. Mais ne serait-ce pas du temps perdu, ou au moins mal employé? Il faut envisager le fait en lui-même. La situation de l'Europe est très-compliquée; un grand problème reste posé, et nul ne peut prévoir comment il sera résolu; mais ce qui est certain, c'est que pour tirer profit de la solution, il faut s'appliquer au problème avec une froideur mathématique et se dégager des entraînements passionnés qui conduisent aux aventures, ou des accès de mauvaise humeur qui rendent impossible toute politique suivie.

L'Angleterre a été très-populaire en Europe pendant quelques semaines. L'origine de cette popularité remonte à la Circulaire du Marquis de Salisbury, en date du 1er Avril. Cette Circulaire était un exposé des meilleurs et des plus nobles principes; elle était inspirée par un sentiment juste et profond de la solidarité Européenne. Aujourd'hui l'Angleterre paraît avoir changé de principes et elle s'expose à d'amères critiques. On l'accuse d'avoir joué une sorte de comédie où elle a trompé tout le monde; on s'en veut de lui avoir prodigué des applaudissements qu'elle ne méritait pas. Soit! Nous voulons bien partager cette impression, mais il ne faut pas l'exagérer. La Circulaire du Marquis de Salisbury n'était pas seulement une proclamation de principes, elle était aussi un appel à l'Europe. Depuis le 1er Avril jusqu'au voyage du Comte Schouvaloff, c'est-à-dire jusqu'au milieu de Mai, qu'a fait l'Angleterre? Elle a cherché, et nous voulons croire qu'elle était sincère, elle a cherché cette Europe dont elle avait adopté la cause. Elle s'est adressée d'abord à la Puissance qui était la première en ligne en Orient, et dont les intérêts particuliers se confondaient avec les siens, à l'Autriche. Est-ce que l'Autriche a répondu aux avances, aux conseils, aux propositions de l'Angleterre? Non; l'Autriche a manqué à l'appel qu'on lui adressait, elle s'est manquée à elle-même, elle a manqué à l'Europe. L'Allemagne! Ses relations intimes avec la Russie étaient connues, il n'y avait rien à tenter de ce côté. L'Italie regardait de tous les côtés à la fois, cherchait le bon vent, ne le trouvait pas, et d'ailleurs ne pouvait rien à elle seule. Restait la France! Mais l'Europe elle-même avait pris soin, en 1871, de casser ou de laisser casser le bras que la France avait toujours mis dans les affaires d'Orient, non pas seulement pour son avantage personnel, mais dans l'intérêt de l'équilibre et de l'indépendance de tous. Il faut être juste! Il faut voir les choses telles qu'elles sont! Sur qui l'Angleterre pouvait-elle s'appuyer en Europe pour arrêter les empiétements de la Russie, soit en Europe, soit en Asie?

En Europe, il était permis, dans une certaine mesure, de compter sur le Congrès: toutes les Puissances réunies en ce moment à Berlin sont, en effet, plus ou moins intéressées à modérer l'élan des ambitions Russes vers Constantinople, à travers le Danube et les Balkans. On a vu ce que le Congrès a fait pour satisfaire à ces appréhensions universelles. Peu de chose à notre avis; mais nous admettrons, si l'on veut, qu'il ne pouvait pas faire plus. S'il n'a pas pu faire plus en Europe, que pouvait-il en Asie? Rien! C'est un devoir de le dire, car rien n'est pire que de vivre d'illusions. L'Autriche, l'Allemagne, l'Italie, la France même avaient de bonnes raisons pour arrêter la Russie dans la Turquie d'Europe; l'Angleterre seule était assez intéressée à l'arrêter dans la Turquie d'Asie pour s'employer à cette tâche, à ses risques et périls. Si donc l'Angleterre a pu compter sur tout le monde en Europe, elle n'a pu compter en Asie que sur elle-même; elle a senti son isolement; elle n'en a pas été découragée: de là est née la Convention du 4 Juin. La Turquie s'engage à introduire des réformes dans ses provinces d'Asie, et elle reconnaît à l'Angleterre le droit de concourir à l'exécution de ces réformes, ce qui équivaut à l'établissement du protectorat Anglais sur ces provinces. Pour que ce droit de l'Angleterre ne soit pas absolument platonique, la Porte cède à son alliée l'Ile de Chypre. C'est un Traité d'alliance défensive entre les deux Puissances, et l'Angleterre occupe une forte situation dans la Méditerranée afin de rendre cette alliance efficace. De Chypre, l'Angleterre surveillera en même temps l'exécution des réformes Turques et tous les mouvements des armées Russes. Elle sera à portée pour aider aux unes et pour arrêter les autres. Dans les deux cas, l'occupation de Chypre, ou de tel autre poste du même genre, était le corollaire inévitable de la stipulation principale par laquelle l'Angleterre devenait le soutien et le guide de la Porte dans les réformes qu'elle a promises, et son alliée contre les agressions qu'elle peut subir.

Ici se présente, au point de vue Européen, au point de vue Français, une grande question. Que vaut-il mieux entre les deux alternatives? Vaut-il mieux que la Russie, Puissance conquérant et autoritaire, ait le champ libre en Asie; ou vaut il mieux qu'elle trouve devant elle l'Angleterre, Puissance politiquement et commercialement libérale?

Sans doute, il serait mieux qu'à côté de l'Angleterre figurât une autre Puissance, mais laquelle? Serait ce l'Autriche? Elle est assez occupée en Occident. Serait-ce l'Allemagne? Serait-ce l'Italie? Serait-ce la France? Aucune, évidemment, ne se chargerait de cette tâche. Alors il faut conclure! Pour notre compte, nous n'hésitons pas dans notre choix, et, au risque de scandaliser quelques esprits, nous dirons hardiment que, pour compléter et en même temps corriger ce que vient de faire l'Angleterre, nous souhaiterions de voir l'Autriche jouer en Europe le rôle que l'Angleterre joue en Asie, en un mot, de la voir conclure avec la Porte, au sujet de la Turquie d'Europe, une Convention semblable et pour ainsi dire parallèle. C'est un rôle difficile qui demande du courage, et qui expose à quelques dangers. Mais, en ce monde, qui ne risque rien n'a rien. L'intérêt presque exclusif que l'Angleterre a en Asie, l'Autriche l'a en Europe. Saura-t-elle le comprendre? Profitera-t-elle des commodités particulières que le Congrès lui a faites? Imitera-t-elle, sans s'exposer aux mêmes reproches que l'Angleterre, l'exemple que celle-ci vient de donner? Nous l'ignorons; mais il est sûr que rien ne serait plus aisé, et que le Congrès a pour ainsi dire poussé l'Autriche dans la voie où elle n'a plus qu'à marcher. La Turquie ne s'est-elle pas réservé le droit de traiter directement avec l'Autriche les conditions de l'occupation de l'Herzégovine et de la Bosnie? Qui ne voit l'avantage que l'Autriche peut retirer de cette situation? L'Herzégovine et la Bosnie peuvent devenir pour elle ce que Chypre est pour l'Angleterre. En Europe comme en Asie, la surveillance des réformes dissimule à peine un protectorat effectif. Quant à une alliance défensive, si les Anglais ont jugé à propos de la conclure pour le cas où les Russes garderaient ou Batoum, ou Ardahan, ou Kars, nous ne voyons pas pourquoi l'Autriche ne prendrait pas les mêmes précautions en présence de la rétrocession de la Bessarabie et de la constitution d'une Principauté Bulgare. De tout temps, dans l'histoire de l'Europe, quelques nations se sont constituées le boulevard de toutes les autres contre le danger qui venait tantôt d'un côté, tantôt de l'autre. C'est la position que l'Angleterre a voulu prendre en Asie, et qui est encore à prendre en Europe.

Nous n'essaierons pas de lever le voile de l'avenir. On nous permettra pourtant d'insinuer discrètement que si les Puissances les plus intéressées, l'Angleterre et l'Autriche par exemple, doivent jouer en Orient le rôle principal, elles auront besoin de tout le monde Occidental dans les efforts qu'elles seront amenées à faire. Notre rôle, à nous, est d'assister avec circonspection à ce qui se passe et d'en parler avec réserve. Méfions-nous surtout des premières et trop vives impressions; ce ne sont pas toujours les bonnes. Nous n'avons certainement aucun intérêt à maintenir, à affermir d'un côté l'alliance des trois Empires, à nous isoler absolument de l'autre. Nous sommes dans une période de transition où il faut savoir accepter ce qui est inévitable. Notre situation à l'extérieur et aussi à l'intérieur doit être traitée avec ménagement. A l'intérieur, les partis qui ont jeté la France dans les difficultés où elle est aujourd'hui, les partis qui l'y ont maintenue n'attendent qu'un prétexte pour relever la tête et tenter peut être de nouvelles expériences. Les journaux réactionnaires sont pleins des déclamations les plus véhémentes contre nos Plénipotentiaires, contre les surprises de la "perfide Albion." Ils savent bien ce qu'ils font, et nous rendons justice à leur adresse; mais il ne nous semble pas à propos de favoriser leurs projets. Nous détestons leur Gouvernement à l'intérieur; quant à leur politique au dehors, à la diplomatie des hommes du 16 Mai, nous la rendons en grande partie responsable de ce qui se passe en ce moment en Europe. Qui est-ce qui a encouragé les prétentions de la Russie? Qui est-ce qui a faussé dès le début, la ligne de conduite qu'il convenait à la France de suivre? Nous l'avons dit assez souvent pour n'avoir pas besoin de le répéter. Oui, l'Europe a dû se passer de nous dans ces derniers temps; mais pourquoi? parce que nous avons manqué à l'Europe, nous nous sommes manqués à nous-mêmes. Nous avons à faire en ce moment œuvre de réparation: il faut y apporter sagesse, prudence, et sang-froid.

No. 116.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 661.)

(Télégraphie.) *Therapia, July* 12, 1878.

THE Convention has been published, and the Turkish newspapers warmly approve, and it has been very favourably received: there has been, consequently, a strong reaction of public opinion in favour of Lord Beaconsfield.

The Sultan has asked me to see him on Tuesday.

No. 117.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 664.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 12, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, orders were, at my suggestion, some days ago (?), sent to authorities in Cyprus, not to recognize recent sales, and to prevent any transactions regarding Government property.

No. 118.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 665.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 13, 1878.*

IN consequence of the attitude of the Greek Government and of the increase of numbers of Greek military force near to Turkish frontiers, the Porte has decided upon reinforcing the troops in Thessaly, which have been recently reduced in numbers, by 10,000 men. This step, I am assured by Grand Vizier, is taken solely for defensive purposes, and with no intention whatever of attacking Greece. Mauthrop Bey has been ordered round to Prevesa with squadron. No decision has yet been taken as to rectification of frontiers.

No. 119.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 12, 1878.*

MR. CALLENGA goes to-morrow to Cyprus as "Times" correspondent. He is a very mischievous and unscrupulous person, and our authorities there should be put on their guard.

No. 120.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Cross.—(Received July 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July 13, 1878.*

FOLLOWING sent to Constantinople this morning:—

"I received your despatch No. 869, Secret, of the 4th instant, and highly approve your language and energetic efforts."

No. 121.

Mr. Cross to Consul Sandwith.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 13, 1878.*

HAVE you ascertained whether the statements of outrages made by the Provisional Government of Crete in inclosure in your despatch No. 71 of the 30th ultimo are well founded?

We presume that you and your colleagues have already urged the exemplary punishment of the battalion concerned, if the Vali has not of his own accord inflicted it.

How does it come that you did not hear and report these accounts of outrages earlier?

You cannot too strongly and earnestly express the abhorrence and indignation of Her Majesty's Government if these assertions of the criminal conduct of Turkish regular troops are true.

No. 122.

Mr. Cross to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 13, 1878.*

I HAVE sent following to Mr. Sandwith with reference to his despatch to you Excellency of the 27th ultimo.—

[See No. 121.]

Her Majesty's Government will press most strongly for exemplary and prompt punishment if such horrors have really been committed by Turkish regular troops. It is essential in the interest of the Turks, as well as in the interest of justice and humanity.

No. 123.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State.—(Received July 14.)

Sir, *Berlin, July 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy which I have received from the Congress Secretariat of a resolution passed at the meeting of yesterday, recommending the despatch of an European Commission to inquire into the state of affairs in the country in the vicinity of the Rhodope Mountains.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Résolution.—(Séance du 11 Juillet, 1878.)

LES Plénipotentiaires des Puissances réunis au Congrès de Berlin, émus des rapports parvenus à quelques-uns d'entre eux sur les souffrances actuelles des populations du Rhodope et des contrées voisines, sont d'avis qu'il y a lieu de recommander aux Ambassadeurs à Constantinople de s'entendre avec la Sublime Porte pour l'envoi immédiat d'une Commission Européenne chargée de vérifier sur les lieux la gravité des faits et de chercher à y apporter remède dans la mesure du possible.

No. 124.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 559.)
My Lord, *Paris, July 13, 1878.*

THE irritation felt in this country with regard to the Convention of the 4th July is, I trust, in some degree diminishing, but it does not subside so speedily as I would fain have hoped would be the case. The suggestions of some violent action on the part of France, such as the recall of the French Plenipotentiaries from Berlin before the signature of the Acts of the Congress, have indeed been, in great measure, dropped; but bitterness of feeling seems to continue.

As illustrations of the state of public feeling, I do myself the honour to send to your Lordship, in continuation of the extracts from newspapers which were inclosed in my despatches Nos. 549 and 556 of the 10th and 11th instant, articles from several newspapers published to-day.

Your Lordship will see that while on the one hand the regular Opposition journals make use of the Convention of the 4th June as a weapon for attacking the Government, the Government newspapers, in self-defence, extenuate the importance of the advantages gained by England, but write reasonably and moderately. It is, however, to be regretted that bitter articles still appear in the "République Française," the organ of M. Gambetta, who is the leader of the majority, on the support of which the continuance in office of the present Government depends.

The first article which I inclose is from the "Journal des Débats," and I am

happy to say that your Lordship will find in it a very fair statement of the reasons which obliged England to protect her interests in the East by her own means.

The second article inclosed is from the "République Française." It affirms that although England has not dared to take direct possession of Egypt, she has established herself at Cyprus, in a position from which Port Saïd can be reached in a few hours.

In the third article, which is taken from the "Constitutionnel," your Lordship will read with indignation a passage misrepresenting, in an utterly unwarrantable manner, the courtesy and kind feeling towards France manifested by the Prince of Wales during His Royal Highness' recent visits to Paris.

The last article which I inclose is from the "Union," a Legitimist organ. It asserts that on the signature of the Treaty of Berlin the disgrace of France will be complete. "Le Traité de Francfort," it says, "a consacré, en 1870, notre chûte en Europe; le Traité de Berlin, en 1878, va consacrer la fin de notre rôle dans le Levant, et notre remplacement par l'Angleterre et la Russie. Le premier nous a été arraché par la force; le second est le résultat de l'ineptie de notre Gouvernement, que est tout à la fois dupe et complice dans cette œuvre."

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 124.

Extract from the "Journal des Débats" of July 13, 1878.

Paris, Vendredi, 12 Juillet.

LES esprits en France, d'abord surpris et émus par la Convention Anglo-Turque, commencent à se rasseoir et à se tranquilliser, et les journaux Républicains prennent la tête de ce mouvement dans l'opinion. Nous sommes convaincus que plus tard il leur en sera tenu compte, et qu'on leur saura gré d'avoir résisté, ou de n'avoir pas cédé longtemps aux premières impressions qu'un patriotisme trop échauffé pouvait provoquer dans les cœurs. Les sources d'où découle le Chauvinisme sont pour nous respectables; mais cette forme de patriotisme ne peut pas être une règle absolue de conduite et, dans ce moment surtout, il serait dangereux de s'abandonner à des inspirations qui, pour être généreuses, n'en sont pas moins confuses et en quelque sorte embrouillées. La critique de parti-pris des journaux réactionnaires nous paraît, au contraire, très-naturelle. Ces journaux se préoccupent infiniment moins des intérêts nationaux à ménager que du Gouvernement actuel à humilier, à abaisser, et finalement à renverser. Ils sont dans leur rôle, mais il nous semble qu'on peut aisément les inquiéter dans la manière dont ils le jouent.

La première cause de la situation où est l'Europe et où nous sommes nous-mêmes n'est pas au 14 Décembre et au Ministère qui a été formé à cette époque. Il faut remonter plus haut encore. Les journaux Bonapartistes ont-ils oublié l'année 1870, et les événements que la politique de l'Empire a déchaînés alors sur nous et sur le monde? Si on remonte plus haut encore, les journaux Bonapartistes ont-ils oublié l'année 1866 et les "Angoisses patriotiques" dont M. Rouher a porté à la tribune l'expression aussi vaine qu'elle était d'ailleurs légitime? Voilà le fond de tableau sur lequel nous devons toujours avoir les yeux pour comprendre les épisodes qui se passent aujourd'hui sur le premier plan. Une guerre qu'il fallait prévoir et à laquelle on aurait dû se préparer nous a surpris en 1870; les suites en sont connues, elles n'ont pas cessé de peser sur nous douloureusement. Mais la guerre finie, que fallait-il faire en 1871? Quelle était la politique extérieure qui convenait dès lors à la France? La France devait employer tout ce qui lui restait d'influence et d'énergie à maintenir le *statu quo* dans toute l'Europe, et particulièrement en Orient. C'est ce que M. Thiers avait compris avec son admirable lucidité d'esprit et la volonté ferme qui le caractérisait. Si M. Thiers était resté au pouvoir jusqu'à sa mort, il n'est pas douteux, pour ceux qui ont été les témoins de ces dernières années, qu'il aurait maintenu la politique de la France dans cette voie sage et prudente. Malheureusement, il a été renversé par des hommes d'esprit qui se préoccupaient très-médiocrement des affaires extérieures, et ces affaires si graves, si importantes, si chargées soudain des questions quotidiennes qui nous divisent dans la politique intérieure, après avoir été livrées, sous l'Empire, à l'aventure, ont été livrées, sous le Gouvernement du 24 Mai, à l'ignorance et à la présomption. La politique du *statu quo* était facile à suivre; elle reposait sur le respect des Traités, et nous avions des Traités formels, solennels; nous

avions le Traité de Paris, qui même modifié par la Convention de Londres en 1871, n'en restait pas moins pour l'Europe une loi impérieuse et salutaire. Il n'y avait qu'une Puissance sur le Continent qui voyait ce Traité d'un mauvais œil et qui, par tous les moyens, en poursuivait l'abrogation, une seule, la Russie! Il est vrai que la Russie devait trouver en Allemagne une adhésion complaisante à ses projets, mais seulement complaisante, et ce n'est pas l'Allemagne qui l'aurait poussée ou encouragée dans sa marche vers Constantinople. Chose extraordinaire, énorme, presque invraisemblable, le principal encouragement, la Russie l'a trouvé auprès du principal signataire du Traité de Paris, auprès de la France! Nous étions certainement bien faibles à cette époque, et toutefois, si nous nous étions fortement établis sur le terrain des Traités, nous y aurions trouvé une base solide pour une excellente politique extérieure. Nous aurions donné à l'Angleterre un appui moral qu'elle recherchait; nous aurions retenu, entravé, gêné l'Autriche dans les velléités qui l'entraînaient vers l'Orient à la suite de la Russie. Les malheurs qui ont fondu sur l'Europe pouvaient être conjurés si on s'y était pris au bon moment et si on y avait employé les bons moyens.

Mais non! dès le premier jour la politique Française a fait fausse route. Le parti qui avait triomphé le 24 Mai et qui est resté maître de la direction des affaires étrangères jusqu'au 14 Décembre dernier, ce parti n'avait qu'une idée: l'alliance Russe! Il a tout sacrifié à la poursuite de sa chimère. Le Prince Gortchacow ne parlait pas du Traité de Paris avec plus de mépris, de dédain, de colère que notre propre Ministre. Il a été convenu, dans certaines coteries, que tous les malheurs de la France dataient de ce Traité fatal que l'on sacrifiait en victime expiatoire dans les conversations privées, et auquel M. le Duc Decazes n'a jamais accordé la moindre mention dans les déclarations et les dépêches qu'il a officiellement produites pendant trois années consécutives. La Russie se réjouissait, l'Angleterre était paralysée; l'Autriche, d'abord perplexe, penchait tous les jours davantage du côté de la Russie. Ces esprits se sont si bien accoutumés à considérer le Traité de Paris en particulier, et même tous les Traités en général, comme un débris vermoulu d'un autre âge, que, le jour où l'honnête M. Washington a parlé de ces Traités méconnus, oubliés, condamnés, il a provoqué une surprise qui n'était pas tout-à-fait exempte de scandale.

Il faut rappeler ces antécédents de la question parce qu'ils ne sont pas indifférents à ce qui se passe. Nous n'avons malheureusement pas le droit de désavouer les Gouvernements que nous avons subis: une nation est responsable des Gouvernements qui la représentent, même lorsqu'ils la représentent mal. Les fautes, une fois commises, suivent leur cours naturel, et ceux qui les ont commises ou laissé commettre ne sont pas libres d'échapper à leurs conséquences. Il est arrivé ce qui devait arriver. L'Angleterre a pris l'habitude de ne plus compter sur nous ni avec nous; elle a dû s'en remettre sur elle seule du soin de garantir en même temps que ses intérêts personnels les intérêts généraux de l'Europe. Comment nier que le langage tenu depuis quelques mois par nos contrées n'a pu que la confirmer dans cette résolution? Le mot de neutralité a pris sous leurs plumes toutes les formes! Il semblait qu'il n'y avait pas une neutralité assez neutre, une inaction assez inactive pour exprimer la politique qui convenait à la France. Le courant de l'opinion a bientôt été si violent qu'il ne fallait songer ni à le remonter ni à l'arrêter. La presse Française a signifié à l'Europe qu'elle ne devait en aucune cas compter sur la France. Soit! Mais alors n'était-ce pas un devoir de souhaiter que la question d'Orient ne reçut pas une solution définitive, et d'agir, ou du moins de parler en raison de ce souhait? C'est ce que nous avons voulu faire, et nous avons proposé un replâtrage qui, dans notre estimation, pouvait durer vingt ou vingt-cinq ans. Grand colère contre nous! Comment, un replâtrage! comment, vingt-cinq ans! La presse a été presque unanime à déclarer qu'il fallait une solution très-nette, très-définitive, et non moins unanime à soutenir que la France devait rester neutre, inactive, les bras croisés et tout au plus un œil ouvert sur deux.

Nous n'inventons rien, nous ne racontons pas un conte de fées. Tout cela c'est de l'histoire, et l'histoire de ces derniers mois. Au moment même où le Congrès s'est réuni, les hommes du 24 Mai défendaient à nos Plénipotentiaires, avec une énergie nouvelle, d'avoir une idée, une volonté, des principes. Fort bien! Mais ce serait trop de prétention que d'adresser une défense analogue aux Plénipotentiaires des autres Puissances. Si l'opinion chez nous se prononçait contre toute initiative un peu hardie, l'opinion ailleurs se prononçait en sens inverse. Elle était surtout très-exaltée en Angleterre, et nous ne doutons pas que si Lord Beaconsfield ne l'avait pas satisfaite par la Convention du 1 Juin, il aurait eu un compte difficile à régler à son retour à Londres et à sa réapparition devant le Parlement. Que devait donc faire l'Angleterre? Devait-elle s'adresser à la France? Mais la France a fini par toutes ses voix

qu'elle ne voulait rien entendre, et que, quoi qu'il arrivât, elle resterait neutre. L'Angleterre devait-elle insister? Devait-elle négliger le langage de la presse et interroger le Gouvernement? Et qui nous dit qu'elle ne l'a pas fait? Qui nous dit qu'aucune invitation n'a été adressée à la France d'occuper aussi une position en Orient et de se charger d'un protectorat quelconque? Bien que ce ne soit là qu'une hypothèse, elle n'est peut-être pas absolument imaginaire. Mais, nous le demandons, si un Ministère avait pris sur lui d'adhérer à des propositions semblables, qu'aurait dit "Le Français"? qu'aurait dit "Le Soleil"? qu'aurait dit "Le Moniteur Universel"? et qu'aurait dit enfin le pays, habitué à l'idée d'une inaction absolue? Évidemment, l'Angleterre ne pouvait pas calculer son action sur la nôtre, et nous aurions mauvaise grâce à lui reprocher d'avoir compté sur elle-même et d'avoir agi seule puisque nous ne voulions pas agir avec elle.

De deux choses l'une: ou tout ce que nous écrivons depuis deux années, ce que nous écrivions encore ces derniers jours sur le Congrès, tout cela n'a pas le sens commun, ou il faut admettre que l'Europe, profondément ébranlée par les dernières guerres et très-imparfaitement réédifiée par le Congrès, avait besoin que l'œuvre faite à Berlin fût placée sous la garantie d'une ou de plusieurs Puissances décidées à la faire respecter. On sait ce que valent les garanties collectives; leur insignifiance est aujourd'hui si bien constatée que les Plénipotentiaires du Congrès auraient craint de jouer trop visiblement une comédie s'ils avaient mis leurs travaux sous la sauvegarde d'une garantie de cette nature. Nous revenons alors à notre question: que pouvait faire l'Angleterre sinon ce qu'elle a fait? La Convention du 4 Juin est la résultante très-légitime et presque obligée de toutes les causes que nous venons d'analyser. Certes, il est désagréable de voir qu'on nous a pris au mot lorsque nous avons crié sur tous les tons qu'on devait se passer de nous. Mais à qui la faute? On se passe de nous pour le moment, et nous nous sommes enlevé le droit de nous en plaindre. Aura-t-on besoin de nous dans l'avenir? C'est une autre question, et il est inutile de la traiter aujourd'hui. Nous nous contenterons de faire observer que si on nous a laissés à l'écart, c'est parce que nous nous y sommes mis. On ne nous a pas exclus comme en 1840. Si nous ne sommes avec personne, personne non plus n'est contre nous.

Il ne faut pas exagérer, d'ailleurs, au point de vue français, la portée de la Convention du 4 Juin, et nous nous sommes efforcés déjà de lui restituer son véritable sens. L'acquisition de Chypre par l'Angleterre n'est que le petit côté de l'affaire; ce n'est pas le but que poursuivait Lord Beaconsfield, mais seulement le moyen. Le but est d'arrêter la Russie en Asie, grâce à un protectorat exercé sur les provinces Asiatiques de la Turquie. Pour l'atteindre, pour exercer un protectorat effectif, l'Angleterre avait besoin d'une station militaire nouvelle. Malte est trop petite, et de plus, elle est trop loin. L'Angleterre avait autrefois les Îles Ioniennes; on sait qu'elle les a données à la Grèce et qu'elle s'est bénévolement dépouillée par-là de territoires plus considérables que celui qu'elle occupe en vertu de la Convention du 4 Juin. M. de Bismarck a eu à ce sujet un de ces mots expressifs qui font leur tour d'Europe. "Une Puissance, a-t-il dit, qui cesse de prendre et qui commence à rendre est une Puissance finie." L'Angleterre proteste en action contre cette sentence trop sévère; elle n'est pas une Puissance finie puisqu'elle n'a pas absolument cessé de prendre. Mais si elle prend, ce n'est pas pour faire une conquête matérielle, pour s'assurer purement et simplement un accroissement de territoire. Non, elle a montré par la restitution des Îles Ioniennes le cas qu'elle faisait des territoires inutiles. Si elle prend Chypre aujourd'hui, ce n'est donc pas pour avoir une île de plus, c'est pour être sérieusement à même d'arrêter la Russie sur sa frontière nouvelle et de protéger les races diverses qui restent soumises à la Turquie. Nous revenons donc encore à la question que nous posions hier et qui, au fond, est la seule pour les esprits réfléchis: Que vaut-il mieux en Asie: le protectorat de l'Angleterre ou celui de la Russie?

En posant cette question nous l'avons résolue. Nous avons dit les motifs multiples qui nous faisaient pencher du côté de l'Angleterre, notre alliée naturelle, notre parente au point de vue des mœurs, des idées, des principes libéraux, soit en matière politique, soit en matière commerciale. Nous pourrions être choqués si l'Angleterre prenait tout d'un coup à nos côtes, ou dans le bassin de la Méditerranée, une Puissance disproportionnée avec celle qu'elle avait hier. En est-il ainsi? L'île de Chypre ajoute-t-elle beaucoup à la Puissance maritime de l'Angleterre? Ne savons-nous pas, d'ailleurs, que cette Puissance est supérieure à la nôtre, et n'y sommes-nous pas résignés? Chaque peuple a son génie particulier et ses aptitudes diverses. Les Anglais ont pour la colonisation, pour le maniement et l'éducation des races arriérées ou semi-barbares, des facultés qui nous manquent. Mais nous, malgré nos malheurs, malgré notre affaiblissement actuel, nous avons dans la clarté de notre esprit et de notre langue, dans

la puissance de propagande qui est en nous, une force qu'on ne nous enlèvera pas, qui est restée intacte, et que nous seuls pouvons diminuer. Comment? En cédant au mirage des idées fausses ou aux entraînements de la mauvaise humeur et des petites rancunes! Sachons nous débarrasser de ces tristes penchants de notre caractère, et soyons sûrs qu'en dépit de tout nous resterons grands si nous comprenons le vrai caractère de notre grandeur et si nous n'y portons pas atteinte.

Inclosure 2 in No. 124.

Extract from the "République Française" of July 13, 1878.

Paris, 13 Juillet.

NOUS avons dit notre sentiment au sujet de la Convention Anglo-Turque du 4 Juin, et les critiques non plus que les insolences des journaux réactionnaires ne modifieront point notre manière de voir à cet égard. On a compris, du reste, à l'étranger, même en Angleterre, combien la politique à coup de théâtre de Lord Beaconsfield était choquante et combien les résultats en étaient inquiétants pour les nations dont le champ d'activité se trouve principalement dans le bassin de la Méditerranée. La presse Anglaise, qui, à la première nouvelle de l'occupation de Chypre et du protectorat Britannique sur la Turquie d'Asie, s'était montrée exubérante de joie et d'orgueil, tient aujourd'hui un langage plus rassis, et, tout en manifestant sa satisfaction, commence à envisager les difficultés et peut-être les dangers de l'œuvre du Ministère actuel. La tâche dont l'homme d'État hasardeux qui est le premier conseiller de la reine Victoria vient de charger son pays n'est pas, en effet, des plus légères. Occuper une grande île de la Méditerranée, y construire des ports, des forteresses, des casernes et des hôpitaux; y tracer des routes, en exploiter les produits de diverses natures, tout cela est parfait et ne sera qu'un jeu pour une nation riche et active comme la nation Anglaise. Mais ce n'est là que le corollaire, que la condition accessoire, de l'arrangement conclu entre l'Angleterre et la Turquie. Les points principaux du contrat en question sont, d'une part, l'engagement pris par la Grande-Bretagne de défendre la partie Asiatique de l'Empire Ottoman contre toute agression étrangère, d'autre part la promesse faite par la Porte de mettre à exécution toutes les réformes administratives et politiques que l'on juge indispensables. Or, ces deux points entraîneront le Gouvernement Britannique plus loin qu'on ne se l'imagine, surtout en Angleterre. Désormais, si une Puissance pénètre sur le territoire Asiatique des domaines du Sultan, le Gouvernement Anglais est dans l'obligation de fournir à la Turquie soldats, armes, munitions et argent; et, comme une agression peut être subite dans des régions aussi éloignées, le voilà contraint d'entretenir une force armée considérable. Nous nous servons de cette épithète avec intention; en effet, le territoire à préserver est tellement vaste, les lignes stratégiques qu'il contient sont tellement étendues, qu'il sera toujours nécessaire d'avoir de nombreux régiments disponibles à mobiliser promptement et à diriger vers les points menacés. Chypre, nous dit-on, sera précisément la citadelle immense où ces forces seront cantonnées. Encore faudra-t-il les y mettre, et, par conséquent, soit dégarnir les autres possessions Anglaises, soit accroître d'une façon très-notable l'effectif de l'armée. On nous dira que l'Inde est une pépinière prodigieusement riche de soldats tout-à-fait propres à servir en Orient. Il y a en effet dans ce pays une population Musulmane assez nombreuse pour fournir un contingent important d'hommes auxquels le climat de l'Orient ne sera pas très-nuisible et dont le départ de l'Inde sera une garantie de sécurité pour l'Empire Britannique; on nous dira encore que le Gouvernement Anglais est en mesure de prêter à la Porte un concours des plus efficaces pour la réorganization et la direction des armées Ottomanes. Mais tout cela sera très-coûteux sans être très-profitable, économiquement parlant, et le budget ne tardera pas à s'accroître singulièrement au compte des dépenses. On sait aussi que toutes les troupes Asiatiques ne sont aptes à faire la guerre que si elles se sentent appuyées par des régiments Européens, et, quoi qu'on dise et quoi qu'on fasse, il faudra bien que l'Angleterre ait une armée de réserve, toute Britannique, plus considérable que celle dont elle dispose aujourd'hui. Qui sait donc si bientôt, pour maintenir l'Empire Asiatique rêvé et inventé par M. Disraeli, la société Anglaise ne subira pas quelque perturbation profonde causée par l'établissement de la conscription ou de tout autre mode de recrutement plus effectif que l'engagement volontaire? Mais les charges de l'Angleterre ne peuvent se borner à cela; la Turquie d'Asie ne possède aucune route stratégique; à peine quelques amorces de chemins de fer dans le vilayet de Smyrne

et dans celui de Brousse constituent son réseau ferré; ponts, canaux, endiguements, tout est à faire en matière de travaux publics; et, si l'on veut jamais faire opérer des armées dans cette région, il faudra leur fournir au préalable les moyens de se mouvoir. Or, ce n'est pas le Gouvernement Ottoman—dont le Trésor est obéré pour longtemps—qui sera en mesure de pourvoir à cette nécessité. Lord Beaconsfield ne sera-t-il pas là pour employer si utilement les guinées des contribuables Anglais? L'autre point de la Convention du 4 Juin, l'engagement pris par la Porte d'exécuter des réformes sérieuses dans son Gouvernement, a été placé sous la garantie de l'Angleterre, qui va se trouver dans l'obligation d'entretenir un nombreux personnel d'agents dans toutes les provinces d'Asie, de se mêler à toutes les querelles qui s'élèvent sans cesse entre les diverses confessions Chrétiennes, entre les diverses races qui couvrent d'un si singulier bariolage les cartes ethnographiques de la Turquie. Que les Jacobites aient maille à partir avec les Arméniens unis ou non unis, ou les Nestoriens avec les Chrétiens de rit Syriaque, et que les Druses et les Maronites, les Arméniens et les Turcomans, les Kurdes et les Chaldéens se tirent des coups de fusil, voilà l'Angleterre, par l'organe de ses Représentants, mise en demeure d'aider le Gouvernement Turc à rétablir l'ordre, non plus par les procédés sommaires de l'Orient, mais suivant la procédure de l'Occident civilisé et paperassier. Il y aura de beaux jours pour les amateurs d'interpellations au Parlement Anglais et d'articles à sensation dans les journaux de Londres.

Et si la Turquie est attaquée dans ce qui lui reste en Europe, que fera le Gouvernement Britannique? est-on amené à se demander. La Convention ne vise que l'Asie; mais, comme le dit avec raison une publication Anglaise, la "Whitehall Review," qui, bien qu'appartenant au parti Conservateur, ne s'est pas laissé priver par "la dernière surprise" de Lord Beaconsfield, si, "lorsque la Russie sera prête pour une nouvelle campagne, elle ne prend pas la route de l'Asie," si "les armées du Czar se frayent un chemin direct et aisé sur la capitale Turque à travers la Roumanie, la Bulgarie et la Roumélie," comment la possession de l'Ile de Chypre pourra-t-elle être un obstacle à l'ambition Moscovite? Depuis deux jours, on nous dit que le Cabinet de Saint-James avait plusieurs partis ou pour mieux dire plusieurs parts à prendre: c'était l'Égypte, c'était les Dardanelles, c'était Chypre. Mettre la main sur l'Égypte, on ne l'a pas voulu, par considération pour la France; l'occupation des Dardanelles eût soulevé l'indignation de l'Europe; il ne restait donc que Chypre à saisir, et on n'y a pas manqué. Nous estimons que la politique d'annexion n'était pas ce qui devait arranger les choses au mieux des intérêts de tout le monde; mais nous avouons que nous nous expliquons difficilement pourquoi on a choisi Chypre comme le meilleur point stratégique pour la défense de l'Empire Ottoman. Une flotte et une armée Russes seront à l'entrée du Bosphore avant que l'escadre Anglais soit entrée dans l'Archipel. S'il fallait à toute force un poste d'observation, nous eussions compris que l'Angleterre eût jeté les yeux sur une île de la mer Égée, sur Mitylène, dont on a parlé, et qu'elle s'y fût établie à la fois en gardienne des Détroits et en surveillante de la Porte. La vérité éclate à tous les yeux. On n'a pas osé s'emparer de l'Égypte, mais on s'établit à Chypre d'où on peut gagner Port Saïd en quelques heures; on veut créer un chemin de fer du Golfe d'Alexandrette à l'Euphrate pour s'ouvrir une nouvelle route vers l'Inde, et, pour que cette route soit sûre, on étend son protectorat sur toute l'Asie antérieure. Quant à l'Empire Ottoman, quant à la possession de Constantinople, quant à l'équilibre en Orient, on n'y attache plus qu'une importance secondaire. Tout cela peut être excellent au point de vue des intérêts Anglais, et encore peut-être pas de tous; mais il faut tenir compte aussi des intérêts que les autres États ont le devoir de défendre, et c'est ce que Lord Beaconsfield ne nous paraît point avoir considéré avec assez d'attention.

L'occupation de Chypre, en somme, ne paraît nullement sortir comme une conséquence naturelle de l'objectif que l'Angleterre se proposait ou du prétexte qu'elle invoquait. Le choix de Chypre trahit des préoccupations qui paraissent ne se rattacher que fort indirectement à la protection de l'Empire Ottoman. Nous croyons qu'il y avait des mesures d'un caractère moins équivoque à prendre pour réserver les intérêts de l'Europe Occidentale que la politique Anglaise aurait peut-être trouvé quelque profit sérieux à prendre plus franchement en mains. Aujourd'hui elle a certainement ébranlé la confiance qu'elle pouvait inspirer; elle a assumé des responsabilités qui pourraient bien entraîner après elles, dans un avenir plus ou moins éloigné, plus de difficultés qu'on n'imagine et donner à la Puissance Anglaise le choix entre une lourde tâche ou une déception profonde. C'est au jour de cette épreuve presque inévitable, visée par le texte même de la Convention Anglo-Turque, c'est ce jour-là qu'on pourra juger de la valeur réelle de cette position privilégiée et que l'opinion Européenne pourra porter un

jugement décidé sur le coup de théâtre de Lord Beaconsfield et dire ci c'est vraiment là un acte de haute prévoyance et de grande politique. Toute œuvre théâtrale ne peut se juger qu'au dénouement.

Inclosure 3 in No. 124.

Extract from the "Constitutionnel" of July 13, 1878.

UN PEU DE PHILOSOPHIE.—L'émotion reste grande dans le public; elle ne va point jusqu'à la turbulence; elle n'est ni provocatrice ni menaçante pour personne; elle se renferme dans une résignation amère et chagrine. On sent qu'il n'y a rien à faire. Nous ne pouvons pas plus empêcher ce qui se passe que nous ne sommes prêts à le réparer. Notre décadence et notre abaissement suivent leur cours.

Un bon symptôme, c'est précisément la conscience profonde et générale de notre situation présente, malade et précaire. Certains journaux cherchent à nous consoler trop vite. Un peu de philosophie servira notre dignité; trop de philosophie blesserait le patriotisme.

Les journaux dont nous parlons forcent la note de l'optimisme dans une intention excellente. Il leur paraît que la douleur publique risquerait de mettre en danger le Ministère; pour sauver le Ministère, ils diminuent et rapetissent les motifs, si légitimes et si puissants, d'où naît cette douleur.

On s'efforce de nous faire croire que tous les Protocoles de Berlin et de Constantinople sont libellés pour notre bien. Ils auront la vertu, nous dit-on, de nous procurer les bienfaits d'une longue paix. La question d'Orient sera rayée du rôle.

Ces bêtes ou plutôt hypocrites déclamations laisseront la France froide et la trouveront incrédule.

Si tout ce qui s'est tramé, conduit, couché dans le mystère était de nature à engendrer la satisfaction universelle, pourquoi nous l'a-t-on caché avec ce soin persévérant et injurieux?

Notre diplomatie a été chloroformée; nous, peuple français, on nous a endormi par la capiteuse fumée des hommages prodigués.

Au moment où l'Ile de Chypre était livrée à l'Angleterre, le Prince de Galles était parmi nous, ne manquant aucune fête, aucune réception officielle, se multipliant pour nous charmer, se montrant presque à la fois dans tous les salons et dans tous les théâtres, la bouche pleine de caresses pour cette France qu'il aime profondément.

Nos oreilles bourdonnent encore avec délices des chaudes paroles de sympathie que Son Altesse Royale a daigné prononcer solennellement.

Il ne pouvait cependant point ignorer quels projets graves s'agitaient, aboutissant à une solution qui nous devait saisir, étonner et affliger.

Depuis vingt-quatre heures on nous conte que l'Angleterre, pour adoucir notre surprise et notre dépit, nous réserve quelque cadeau précieux. Les imaginations se donnent déjà carrière dans le camp des conjectures flatteuses et savoureuses.

Dans ces rêves téméraires et quasi enfantins, l'attention se porte principalement sur Tunis.

L'Angleterre ne peut pas nous donner Tunis qui ne lui appartient pas. Tout ce qu'elle pourrait faire ce serait de s'engager à nous laisser, sans opposition, nous mettre en possession de Tunis.

Evidemment l'entreprise serait risée; mais nous participerions au crime de démembrer l'Empire Ottoman; nous violerions le droit populaire; en outre, nous deviendrions, par ce bénéfice illicite, par cet acte de conquête ou plutôt de spoliation, absolument et irrémédiablement complices de tout ce qui s'est fait à Berlin et à Constantinople.

D'autres feuilles mettent en avant la rétrocession de l'Ile de France; d'autres enfin nous promettent la Palestine.

Notre avis a été, dès le premier jour, que nous ne devions accepter aucun don, si avantageux qu'il puisse paraître. Gardons nos mains pures, bien pures de ce trafic des peuples et des territoires. L'honneur sera sauf. Nous ne nous serons pas agrandis; mais en retour nous ne nous serons pas souillés.

Le moment est dur à passer. Nous nous ferons une raison sans nul doute; car, en ce monde, tout s'allége et quelquefois s'oublie. Ce soulagement qu'on peut espérer du temps, des journaux ont tort de le précipiter et de prétendre nous l'imposer. Ils heurtent la conscience et la sensibilité populaires.

En exprimant avec une discrétion qui nous coûte ces finales regrets, nous ne

pensons point nous livrer à une levée de boudiers contre le Ministère. Et pourquoi le ferions-nous?

Nous serons francs: le Ministère, daignant prendre nos conseils, nous demanderait ce que nous déciderions, à sa place, que notre réponse serait: "Nous n'en savons rien."

Une dépêche disait avant-hier que la France offensée allait adopter une politique plus active. Est-ce que ces paroles ont la moindre signification? Quelle politique active est permise à la France, dans l'isolement malheureux et forcé, où elle se trouve?

Résignons-nous; n'oublions pas; étouffons les révoltes de notre orgueil et les inspirations de notre colère, sans perdre le souvenir; travaillons, refaisons nos forces, entretenons et raffermissons la discipline dans toutes les parties civiles et militaires du corps social, révoquons les agents qui nous servent mal et attendons, sans forfanterie comme sans affaissement de cœur.

Inclosure 4 in No. 124.

Extract from "L'Union" of July 13, 1878.

LE Congrès achève facilement son œuvre: depuis que l'Angleterre est nantie, elle transige sur tout avec la Russie.

Dans la dernière séance, il a été décidé que Batoum resterait au Czar, sous la seule condition d'en faire un port commercial, et non un port libre comme on le croyait au premier abord. En cas de nouvelle guerre, la Russie, grâce à la situation de la ville, pourra donc bien vite relever ses retranchements et en fera une place militaire importante, servant de base à ses communications avec la Perse. De plus, Olti lui est encore cédé. Lord Beaconsfield a discuté pour la forme, et en fin de compte a prêté les mains à cette nouvelle concession.

Tout le monde est content: l'arrangement final devient facile.

La "République Française," dans sa mauvaise humeur, s'est trop hâtée de donner à nos diplomates le conseil de ne pas ratifier le Traité du 4 Juin. Ce Traité ne sera pas soumis aux délibérations du Congrès. On a limité naïvement la lettre même du programme; l'engagement est tenu strictement, et par le fait c'est la France qui est jouée.

Il est facile de comprendre aujourd'hui que le Congrès a été tenu en partie double. Il y avait deux programmes: le programme officiel et public, destiné à duper ceux qui n'étaient pas dans le secret,—et le programme sérieux, le programme politique, arrêté d'avance entre la Russie, l'Angleterre, l'Allemagne, et l'Autriche. Le premier n'était qu'une mise en scène, une comédie, qui devait masquer le second; le second était le seul vrai, une quadruple entente entre les Puissances qui avaient négocié un partage de l'Empire d'Orient, à l'insu de la France et de l'Italie, dont on s'inquiétait peu.

Le "Nouvelle Presse Libre" de Vienne résume spirituellement la situation en disant:—

"Lord Beaconsfield vient de faire, à la Bourse territoriale de Berlin, une excellente opération: seulement, c'est la Turquie qui paie la différence!"

Le résumé serait plus complet et plus juste si, au nom de Lord Beaconsfield, la feuille Viennoise avait ajouté les noms du Prince Gortschacow et du Comte Andrassy; car, en somme, si l'Angleterre a le plus gros lot, tous ont fait une "excellente opération."

Les journaux Italiens semblent assez mécontents du résultat, et cela ne doit pas surprendre. Ce jeune royaume d'Italie nourrit assez d'ambitions pour être profondément déçu dans cet arrangement à quatre où il n'a aucune part. Le bruit courait hier que ses Délégués à Berlin proposaient aux nôtres de s'unir dans une protestation commune.

Nous ne croyons pas un mot de cette nouvelle; d'abord parce que l'Italie, si elle a quelque chose à réclamer, ne s'appuiera pas sur nos Plénipotentiaires qui ne lui apportaient aucun crédit; ensuite parce qu'elle a beaucoup plus de chance d'arriver à ses fins par l'intermédiaire de M. de Bismarck, lequel ne lui a jamais manqué. Qui sait si elle n'obtiendra pas un îlot dans l'Archipel ou une station dans l'Adriatique? La France seule sera oubliée ou même écartée de parti-pris!

Nous disions tout-à-l'heure que les séances officielles du Congrès n'avaient été qu'une comédie. La comédie a été montée pour nos Plénipotentiaires qui ont joué leur petit rôle sérieusement, sans voir ce qui se passait dans la coulisse, sans soupçonner

même le dénoûment de la pièce. Et, au dernier acte, ils se sont trouvés les Georges-Dandin de cette farce!

On annonce pour samedi la signature du Traité définitif: ce jour-là la honte de notre politique sera consommée, et nos Représentants assisteront à notre expulsion complète de l'Orient. Le Traité de Francfort, en 1870, a consacré notre chute en Europe; le Traité de Berlin, en 1878, va consacrer la fin de notre rôle dans le Levant et notre remplacement par l'Angleterre et la Russie. Le premier nous a été arraché par la force; le second est le résultat de l'ineptie de notre Gouvernement, qui est tout à la fois dupe et complice dans cette œuvre.

No. 125.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 560.)

My Lord, *Paris, July* 13, 1878.

YESTERDAY, in pursuance of the instruction sent by your Lordship to me by telegraph, I informed M. de Lesseps that your Lordship had been particularly gratified by hearing that the occupation of Cyprus was approved by a Frenchman who had conferred such vast benefits upon commercial intercourse in the East, and who had always evinced so enlightened and sagacious a patriotism.

M. de Lesseps begged me to convey his best thanks to your Lordship for this communication, and to assure you that he received it with very great satisfaction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 126.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 667.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 13, 1878.

GRAND VIZIER informs me that there are in Cyprus a good many criminals condemned to different terms of hard labour, and a number of Babis, members of a Persian sect of assassins who have been confined on the demand of the Shah, and whose release might lead to serious consequences. His Highness suggests that these prisoners should not be liberated, but that some arrangement should be made with regard to them. There are guns, ammunition, and other stores belonging to Turkey in the island, which the Grand Vizier says should be handed over to the Porte. There are also arrears of revenue due which should be collected for the Turkish Government.

Upon these and other points, such as arrangements for continuation of telegraph service, &c., I have suggested that Turkish Representatives should come to an understanding with the British authorities.

No. 127.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Canea, Crete, July* 14, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of 13th, the report of outrages, as stated by Provincial Government, is substantially true. I will telegraph more at length to-morrow.

No. 128.

Sir R. Wood to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 39.)

My Lord, *Tunis, July* 9, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 13 of the 26th June, accompanying a copy of a letter from the War Office on the subject of remounts for the Indian troops at Malta.

I beg to state, in reply, that the Governor of Malta has sent Major Anderson to Tunis to purchase horses, and that I have made, agreeably to his Excellency's request, all the necessary arrangements to enable that officer to execute the object of his mission.

Major Anderson left yesterday for Maltar, Beja, and Keff, in the interior, with letters of recommendation from the Tunisian Government to the Governors of those towns to lend him their assistance; and I have sent an escort of two spahis for the protection of his party on the road, as they are carrying money with them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 129.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 669.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 14, 1878.*

I AM informed that Admiral Hasan Pasha will leave to-morrow with two iron-clad frigates for Volo, escorting transports conveying 18 battalions and 6 batteries of field pieces, probably intended as a reinforcement to the army of the frontier, under Ahmed Hamdi Pasha. Manthrope Bey has been appointed second in command of fleet, and will remain at Volo with some ships whilst troops proceed to Prevesa with the rest.

With a view to [?] stores and provisions for three months, have been embarked. Porte seems to be determined to resist any cession of territory to Greece.

No. 130.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 670.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 15, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 13th, I have addressed strong remonstrance to the Porte on the subject of the alleged cruelties in Crete; and I have requested Mr. Sandwith to ascertain whether statements regarding them are true.

No. 131.

Vice-Consul Bonham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 20. Political.)
My Lord, *Jassy, June 15, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Registers of the Cemetery here show that the total number of Russians and Turks buried there from the time the Russian army first entered the country, in April, 1877, until the 9th instant, was 1,451 Russians and 944 Turks.

Up to 31st December, o. s. (12th January), the numbers were 87 Turks and 829 Russians, amongst whom there were seven officers and four Sisters of Charity. This year, up to the 28th May (9th June), the burials of Turks had been 854 and of Russians 628, amongst whom there were seven officers, two doctors, one priest, and four Sisters.

I inclose a further return of the sick in the military hospitals from 24th ultimo to 7th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. W. BONHAM.

Inclosure in No. 131.

RETURN for the Russian Field Hospital No. 45, stationed at Jassy, from May 12 to May 26, o. s. (May 24 to June 7), 1878.

Nature of Diseases.	In Hospital on 12/24th May.	Movements during the Fortnight: Admitted.	Discharged Well.	Left for other Hospitals.	Died.	In Hospital on 26th May, 7th June.
Fever	44	50	38	27	..	29
Abdominal typhus	25	8	5	8	6	14
Spotted "	158	49	31	49	18	104
Dysentery	9	4	3	3	3	4
Inflammations	47	18	9	11	..	45
Chronic diseases	2	7	..	3	..	6
External "	20	15	6	21	..	8
Frost-bites	2	..	..	2	..	..
Ery-ipelas	3	..	..	..	..	3
Syphilis	51	38	17	30	..	42
"Scarlet" scarcy	22	10	..	1	..	31
Variams	33	17	9	22	1	18
Wounds	12	1	..	6	1	6
Total Russians ..	425	217	118	185	29	312
" Turks	13	2	..	10	1	4
	438	219	118	195	30	316

Jassy, June 15, 1878.

(Signed) E. W. BONHAM,
Her Majesty's Vice-Consul.

No. 132.

Vice-Consul Bonham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 21. Political.)
My Lord, *Jassy, June 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a change has taken place in the Russian garrison here. On the 20th instant a battalion of the Reserves (44 P on black shoulder strap) arrived from Galatz or Ibraïla, and on the following day a similar number of men (17 P) left for the place from whence the others had come. I believe that neither of the above battalions were of full strength. The men here now belong to the 41st P and 44th P; there are also some with 4 }+{ on red shoulder strap. The total number does not, so far as I can learn, exceed 1,500, including hospital attendants.

There are less sick in the hospitals here, and rather fewer sanitary trains have been passing lately.

I have heard further reports that there is a large force between Ungheni and Kischinev.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. W. BONHAM.

No. 133.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 119. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, July 1, 1878.*

THE Bessarabian question continues to be almost the principal topic absorbing public attention to the exclusion of every other subject.

The party now in power having an overwhelming majority in the Lower House declare that no terms, however favourable, for an exchange of the three Bessarabian districts, will be either accepted or submitted to without a protest by them.

In the meantime, the Russians hold possession of these districts, and it will be a very easy matter for them to establish their own administration there; indeed, it is said that even now they are preparing to ignore the existence of Roumanian Custom-houses, or of the officers enforcing the tobacco monopoly.

As the Prince of Roumania is absent just now from the capital, nothing will be known till His Highness returns whether he intends siding with those who profess themselves uncompromising on the subject of Bessarabia, or whether he will initiate a more conciliatory policy by calling other men to power and dissolving the Chamber.

The question of the Jews is likely to be the occasion of a much more serious agitation in Moldavia, and it is feared by many persons that it may be an excuse for disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 134.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 90. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, July 3*, 1878.

I HASTEN to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter addressed to me on the 1st instant by Mr. Consular Agent Doulcet, of Samsoon, on the subject of the Abazian Christians, now at Sinope, who are to be transferred at a distance of six or seven days from the sea-shore.

The 155 Christian Abazians who had been landed between the Russian and Turkish camps at Batoum, as mentioned in my despatch to your Lordship No. 77 of the 31st May last, were admitted into Russia a week after their landing in that spot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 134.

Consular Agent Doulcet to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Monsieur, *Samsoon, le 1 Juillet*, 1878.

L'ARCHEVÊQUE Grec de Samsoon, lequel se trouve depuis quelque temps à Sinope, me fait savoir que l'on se dispose à expédier dans l'intérieur, à une distance éloignée de six ou sept journées de Sinope, les Abazas Chrétiens qui se trouvent dans cet endroit.

Ces malheureux, observe sa Grandeur, qui ont vu déjà périr de misère et de maladies la moitié des leurs, mourront, eux aussi, en très-grande quantité si on les éloigne de Sinope, où ils peuvent seulement espérer quelques secours de la part de leur coreligionnaires qui habitent cette ville.

Si donc vous pouviez empêcher cela, vous sauveriez sans doute la vie à un bon nombre de personnes qui ont déjà été fort éprouvées par le malheur.

(Signé) N. DOULCET.

No. 135.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 91. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, July 4*, 1878.

I HAVE just forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the following telegram, in consequence of one received from the Laz Delegates at Batoum:—

"Laz forward for transmission to Her Majesty, Parliament, and Lord Mayor a telegram stating that while living quiet, having placed themselves under British protection, they saw in papers Memorandum signed by Lord Salisbury and Count Schouvaloff, which, if true, proves that their petitions have not been taken into consideration; that, to avoid the sacrifice of their lives, they have addressed, on 3rd instant, petitions to Representatives of all Powers at Congress; that, on 12th instant, they will unfurl the British flag, and without fail open fire against the Russians. They regret that no one paid attention to the cries of 200,000 individuals, and trust that petitioned will not consent to their dying under the British flag."

I have now the honour to inclose copy of the full text, with translation of the message of the populations of the Lazistan, and to express, at the same time, my strong conviction that the statements of the Laz contained therein are not to be taken as mere threats.

This conviction is based on my personal knowledge of the character of the Laz, and on the opinion of all those, without exception, who are acquainted with them.

I have had lately a long conversation on the subject with the Armenian Catholic priest of Batoum, who cannot be considered a partial witness, and who does not entertain the slightest doubt that the Laz will fight to the last rather than submit to Russia.

Ali Effendi, the Imperial Commissioner at Batoum, who is here since a few days for change of air, was telling me, only three days ago, the same thing; and I do not believe that I am mistaken in thinking that Viscount du Halguët, the French Military Attaché at Constantinople, who visited the Lazistan but two weeks ago, has come to a similar conclusion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 135.

Address from the Populations of the Lazistan.

(Translation.)
To Her Majesty, to both Houses of Parliament, and to the Lord Mayor through the British Vice-Consul at Trebizond and Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

HAVING placed ourselves under the protection of Great Britain, and having addressed several petitions to the British Government, we were living quiet, trusting that our country would have been saved from the inhuman hands of Russia. But we have, unfortunately, seen in the papers that a Memorandum had been signed by the Marquis of Salisbury and Count Schouvaloff which, if true, proves that Great Britain has not condescended to take into consideration our several petitions, and that she has doomed 200,000 individuals to be the victims of the lances of the Cossacks.

The said Memorandum has, therefore, struck us with utmost consternation, and we are all resigned to die in a manner that will move compassion.

In the hope to avoid this doom, which we do not deserve, we have addressed, on the 21st instant (3rd July), a petition to all the Representatives of the other Powers at the Congress.

As we have already stated, we are always determined to unfurl the British flag and to die under it, and at the end of this month, o.s., we will without fail open fire against the Russians.

We only regret that, in this century so renowned for its humanity, there should have been no one to pay attention to the cries of 200,000 individuals who are to die without mercy, and that the contemporary history should be written without blood.

However, we take the liberty to forward with our agonising voice the present address, trusting that you will never consent to our dying so sadly under the flag of your nation.

Batoum, $\frac{\text{June 21}}{\text{July 3}}$, 1878.

(Follow 11 Signatures of Delegates.)

No. 136.

Acting Consul Fiennan to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 45. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, July 5*, 1878.

I HAVE this instant telegraphed to your Lordship that the news were received on Wednesday by the Austrian Consul-General, and communicated by him to the Governor-General, that the European Congress had consented to the occupation of Bosnia by Austria; that the Representatives of the people telegraphed yesterday to the Porte to

inquire what course it intended to pursue: but that no answer had yet been received. Also, that the town to-day was in a tumult, shops closed, and the Mussulmans all up in arms; that they had proceeded *en masse*, with some few Orthodox Christians, to the Pasha, and declared their intention to oppose Austria; that this afternoon they had besieged the barracks, liberated the military prisoners, and insisted on the immediate resignation and departure of the Commander of the troops, against whom they had already made complaints. I stated that the troops sided with the people, and the situation was critical.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 137.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 16.)

(No. 636.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a summary by Mr. Michell of the opinions of the Russian press on the subject of Batoum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Summary of Opinions of the Russian Press on the subject of Batoum, &c.

THE "Golos" of the 28th June/10th July, 1878, commenting on the opposition shown by the English Plenipotentiaries against the cession of Batoum to Russia, says:—

"Lord Beaconsfield has not succeeded in preserving Batoum for Turkey. The Congress did not permit that all its labours should end in a *fiasco*, merely because the English Premier wished to prove to his admirers and partizans that he did not consider the Anglo-Russian Agreement as binding. . . . . The English Plenipotentiaries apparently had to listen to some bitter truths from other Members of the Congress, who showed them that the Representatives of the Continental Powers could not allow the agreements already arrived at to be neutralized, and were determined at all hazards to avert such an issue.

"This had its effect. At yesterday's sitting of the Congress the English Plenipotentiaries showed themselves more amenable to discussion. They no longer opposed the cession of Batoum to Russia, and only strove to get the town declared a free port. To this the Russian Delegates in all probability agreed, calculating that all individual obligations entered into on one or another point of an international agreement can, when it comes into force, always be altered with the general consent of the Powers, when the necessity or inevitableness of such alteration became apparent. They need only have remembered the fate of the supplementary clause of the Treaty of Paris of 1856, which limited our naval force in the Black Sea. It is evident that Europe will not consider the erection of two or three fortresses, which it may become necessary to construct at Batoum, as a violation of the Berlin Treaty, any more than she considered the Treaty of Paris violated by the Syrian Expedition and a whole series of other individual departures from the text of the Treaty of 1856.

". . . . . The task of the Congress may therefore be regarded as finally concluded, in the sense that it has succeeded in amicably treating the results of the Russo-Turkish campaign. The Representatives of the Great Powers have created in the Balkan Peninsula a new condition of things, which does not completely satisfy anybody. But they consider, however, that it is better meanwhile to rest contented with this result than to embroil Europe in a fresh war, the consequences of which no one is capable of foretelling."

The "Novoe Vremya" of the 29th June/11th July observes with reference to Batoum:—

"When we occupy Batoum—which event please God will take place before fifty years after the San Stefano Treaty have elapsed—the idea will never occur to us of raising the old fortifications, but, on the contrary, the necessity will become apparent of constructing new ones."

The article concludes by saying, "On the termination of the Congress must commence a division of power in the East in an equitable manner, and in accordance with the actual strength of the nations concerned. Our settlement with the Porte will be a very summary one as soon as the departure of the British fleet from the Sea of Marmora destroys the last illusion entertained by the Turks. The first practical result of the Congress will be the removal of the English from a place where they should never have entered if they desired that a final settlement with Turkey should end peaceably."

The "Exchange Gazette" of the 29th June/11th July 1878, expresses its satisfaction at the prospect of peace:—

"Every Russian patriot," it says, "ought to thank God for this, and the last two years ought to serve as a salutary warning to us for a complete change in our policy in regard to the Eastern question."

No. 138.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 16.)

(No. 637.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship the précis of an article in the "Golos" by Mr. Stephen, giving some details with regard to the four steamers lately purchased by the Russian Government from the Hamburgh-American Company, to serve as the nucleus of the Russian Volunteer Naval Fleet.

According to the last-published Report of the Chief Committee under the presidency of His Imperial Highness the Cesarevitch for the establishment of a Russian Volunteer Fleet, the total amount of subscriptions received did not exceed 850,000 roubles (about 90,000*l.*).

I have also the honour to inclose an extract in translation by Mr. Michell from the official "Gazette," giving the names of twenty additional torpedo boats which have been constructed in Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 138.

Précis of Article in the "Golos."

A CRONSTADT correspondent furnishes the "Golos," with the following details with regard to the "cruizers" lately purchased by the Russian Government:—

The number at present in all is four.

1. The "Holsatia," now christened "Russia," Commander Nicolas Michailovitch Baranoff.

2. The "Hammonia" (to receive the name "Moskvoi"), whose Commander will probably be Captain Nicholas Vaselvitch Kopetoff.

3. The "Turingia" (to be called the "St. Petersburgh"), to be commanded by Lieutenant-Captain Paul Petrovitch Andréaff. This last vessel has not yet arrived, but is expected on Saturday or Sunday next, 6th or 7th July.

4. The "Cyclops" (future name not yet chosen), expected to arrive after the "Turingia," and to be commanded, it is said, by Lieutenant-Captain Kruskoff, a tried seaman and a smart officer, who has already commanded several vessels in the Pacific, and has had under his charge a steamer of the "Cyclops" class.

The first three of these vessels cost 160,000*l.* Nothing as yet is known of the exact price of the "Cyclops." The "Turingia" is slightly larger than the first two, and is one of the best ships of the Hamburgh-American Company, which possesses thirty ships of this kind. She cost the Company 80,000*l.*, and was only sold because the affairs of the Company have been lately very slack. As a proof of this, we may state that the "Hammonia" has been lying in harbour for more than a year and a half. The "Cyclops" is a very handsome vessel, much smaller than the other three, steaming like the rest from 14 to 15 knots an hour.

All these four vessels were purchased of the same Company, namely, the Hamburgh-American, and were built by Messrs. Caird and Co., of Greenock. These vessels were

purchased through the medium of the well-known shipbuilding firm of M. Godfroi, whose brother is one of the largest shareholders in the Hamburgh-American Company. The steamers have been purchased below their value, which redounds to the credit of the Marine Officers sent to Hamburgh.

We learn that the proposal made by our American correspondent with regard to the future use of the cruizers in time of peace is to be carried out, and that in case peace should be concluded, their labours will begin by the transport of the Russian troops from San Stefano to Odessa.

Inclosure 2 in No. 138.

Substance of Naval Intelligence published in the "Golos."

The official "Gazette" publishes the following names of twenty additional torpedo boats which have been constructed in Germany:—

Sveristel.	Kasatka.	Jadro.	Palitsa.
Podorojnik.	Delphin.	Bulava.	Look.
Çalka.	Syren.	Samopal.	Streia.
Selesen.	Metch.	Bomba.	Prastch.
Dragon.	Kopfi.	Rocket.	Shtik.

(Signed) J. MICHELL.

St. Petersburgh, July 8, 1878.

No. 139.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 16.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, July 16, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Rear-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell, at Gallipoli, dated 16th July.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 139.

Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Gallipoli, July 16, 1878, 3·55 P.M.*

RUSSIAN outpost fired on the steamboat of "Swiftsure" and struck her twice; they again fired on her at anchor with the white flag flying.

Await instructions from the Commander-in-chief.

No. 140.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 671.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 16, 1878.*

MESSENGER will leave on Friday with ratifications of Convention which have been exchanged. I will explain cause of delay in despatch.

No. 141.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Canea, July 15, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, five women and four old men were killed, and women wounded by troops. I have expressed the indignation of Her Majesty's Government at this affair, and demanded the trial and punishment of the guilty battalion, but new Commander-in-chief declines to do so, and the Vali has telegraphed for instructions.

The Vice-Consul of Candia calculates that 250 Christian families have been pillaged by irregulars.

No. 142.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July 16, 1878.*

IT is reported that M. de Bratiano, the Prime Minister, is to proceed on a special mission to St. Petersburgh in a few days.

No. 143.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, July 16, 1878.*

HAFIZ PASHA urgently demands ten battalions of Turkish troops to maintain order during entry of Austrians, but can obtain no reply from Porte. Of twenty-three battalions now in Bosnia, nineteen are Bosnian and not to be trusted. I telegraph at his request.

No. 144.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 16, 1878.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informed me to-day that orders had been telegraphed four days ago to Military Governor of Bulgaria to recognize foreign Consular Agents as officially accredited.

No. 145.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 850.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by a person who is in direct communication with the Chiefs of the Mussulmans in Mount Rhodope who have taken up arms against Russian and Bulgarian oppression. One of the results attributed by the writer to the Russian invasion and occupation of the Turkish provinces upon one of the most moral populations in the world is not unworthy of notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 145.

Letter addressed to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, le 1 *Juillet*, 1878.

JE viens de recevoir des nouvelles des Montagnes, et notamment de Shakin, du 24 passé, et je m'empresse de mettre à la connaissance de votre Excellence les passages qui pourraient l'intéresser.

Les Grecs manifestent partout une hostilité la plus prononcée contre l'occupation Russo-Bulgare, et regoivent chez eux les défenseurs des Montagnes en frères. La population en général est prête à faire la résistance absolue, mais elle manque des munitions de guerre (surtout les cartouches système Martini). Les ressources pécuniaires sont nulles, et leur nécessité se fait sentir de plus en plus. Ceux des montagnards qui restent sous les armes sont les hommes d'élite: robustes, bien-portants, gais, et braves. Ils partagent le dernier morceau de leur pain avec des réfugiés, dont le nombre augmente journellement; car les Russes ne cessent pas de ravager le pays, et en attaquant à l'improviste les villages inoffensifs, ils ne laissent même pas le temps aux habitants d'emporter ni des vivres, ni des vêtements. Aussi arrivent-ils au milieu de leurs frères de Montagnes dénudés, affamés, pour la plupart malades ou blessés. Il y a plus de 100,000 réfugiés dans les Montagnes; le travail y manque. Il n'est pas rare de voir même des femmes toutes nues, car leur chemises sont déjà tellement usées que leurs lambeaux ne sont plus suffisants de couvrir leur nudité. Les Russes ont inventé un moyen terrible pour décimer la population. Il paraît que les visites médicales dans leur armée ne se fassent pas avec une exactitude nécessaire, sont atteintes de maladies syphilistiques, et faute de secours, elles meurent, rongées qu'elles sont, par les effets du mal vénérique. Au nom de Dieu, de l'humanité, et des intérêts même de l'Europe toute entière, ils implorent des armes, des munitions, des médecines, des vivres pour nourrir les pauvres réfugiés, des vetements pour les couvrir, et, enfin, un peu d'argent pour les besoins imprévus et cependant nombreux, que toute la guerre exige pour qu'elle puisse être menée à la bonne fin.

No. 146.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 860.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translations of petitions appealing against the territorial changes laid down in the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 146.

Protest from Greek Christian Inhabitants of Anchialos and Messemvria.

(Traduction.)

À son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre à Constantinople.

VOTRE Excellence n'ignore pas qu'à proximité du Cap Eminé il y a la province d'Anchialos et Messemvria.

Les Soussignés, habitants Grecs de cette province, bien que formant les quatre-cinquièmes de la population Chrétienne, furent malheureusement soumis au joug Bulgare à la suite du Traité de San Stefano.

La guerre déchaînée contre la Turquie sous le prétexte de la délivrance des Chrétiens du joug Ottoman, n'avait d'autre but, ainsi qu'il fût prouvé par la suite, que celui de procurer à l'élément Slave les moyens d'absorber l'Hellénisme et d'établir sa prépondérance à l'aide des lances Russes. La pression exercée sur nous aussitôt après l'occupation de notre province par les Russes, à l'effet de nous obliger à mettre nos signatures sur papier blanc destiné soi-disant à communiquer notre reconnaissance à l'Empereur de Russie pour notre délivrance, l'institution de la langue Bulgare comme langue officielle, l'éloignement de l'administration du pays de tout ce qui est Grec, comme inepte et incapable, tout cela nous donne un avant-goût de l'avenir horrible que nous prepare le Panslavisme.

Nous sommes décidés, Excellence, de nous opposer jusqu'à complète annihilation, à un pareil état de choses, et nous ne saurions nous résigner en guise de bête à la violation de nos droits les plus sacrés, ceux de la patrie, de la nationalité, et de la langue. Persuadés, Excellence, que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine, que vous représentez si dignement, fait grand cas du bien-être de tous les Chrétiens en général et qu'il désire sincèrement le rétablissement de la tranquillité, nous nous sommes permis de lui soumettre notre humble protestation contre l'actuel état de choses, et nous prions votre Excellence de la prendre sous sa bienveillante considération et de l'addresser à qui de droit.

Le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Juin*, 1878.

(Signé) Les Primats de la Province Anchialos-Messemvria.
(Suivent les signatures légalisées par l'Evêque.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 146.

Protest of Inhabitants of the Sandjac of Stromnitcha (Vilayet of Salonica).

(Traduction en resumé.)

LES habitants du Sandjac de Stromnitcha, situé dans le vilayet de Salonique, protestent contre l'annexion de leur pays à la Bulgarie créée par le Traité de San Stefano. Ils disent que les Bulgares ne forment dans leur pays qu'une minorité insignifiante, formée de bergers et de laboureurs, et que sous le masque d'une Administration Bulgare, ce sera la Russie qui les Gouvernera, ce qui ne fera que perpétuer chez eux les troubles et les désordres. Ils concluent en disant qu'ils désirent rester dans la sujétion Ottomane et que leur avenir soit garanti d'une manière juste et équitable.

Ils prient que son Excellence l'Ambassadeur veuille bien rapporter à son Gouvernement les voeux et les aspirations des humbles Soussignés.

Le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Juin*, 1878.

(Suivent de nombreux sceaux et signatures des habitants Musulmans et non-Musulmans.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 146.

Telegram from Inhabitants of Kars, Erzeroum, Bayazid, and Ardahan.

HUMBLE requête au Gouvernement Anglais par le canal de l'Ambassade Britannique:

En conformité du Traité de San Stefano, Bayazid, Kars, et Tehildir, ayant été cédés à la Russie en guise d'indemnité de guerre, les sacrifices de toute sorte faits par les habitants de ces pays furent en pure perte et ils durent s'expatrier avec leurs familles, à la suite des mauvais traitements éprouvés entre les mains des Russes. En outre, par rapport à Erzeroum, malgré les assurances et les stipulations à l'effet que les Russes n'y seraient admis que comme hôtes et que les autorités civiles Ottomanes continueraient à y resider et gérer la ville, celles-ci en furent expulsés, et les habitants en furent à leur tour dispersés à la suite d'une oppression intolérable de la part de ceux à qui on avait donné l'hospitalité. Si les pays susénoncés continuent à être occupés par les Russes, ou bien si ils sont cédés aux Russes, la ruine d'Erzeroum est inévitable et les habitants ne pourront pas y tenir, et surtout maintenant ils mourront de faim. Bref, plutôt que de tolérer que le sang versé par nos ancêtres, par nos frères, et par nos enfants, l'ait été en pure perte, et de vivre sans honneur, nous préférons verser, nous aussi, la dernière goutte de notre sang, et de ne pas permettre qu'il soit cédé aux Russes un pouce de terrain de notre cher pays d'Erzeroum, Kars, Ardahan, et Bayazid. Nous en faisons en même temps appel à la justice de l'Europe, et à celle du Gouvernement Anglais, en les priant de nous procurer les moyens de délivrance. Nous attendrons une réponse avec anxiété, espérant qu'elle ne tardera pas plus de dix jours.

Le $\frac{17}{5}$ *Juin*, 1878.

(Suivent les signatures des fondés de pouvoir des habitants des pays mentionnés dans la dépêche.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 146.

Protest from Greeks resident in Thrace.

(Traduction en résumé.)
A l'Ambassade d'Angleterre.

LES Soussignés, à l'instar des autres habitants Grecs de la Thrace et de la Macédoine, protestent contre l'annexion de leur pays à la Nouvelle Bulgarie, et sollicitent la protection de l'Angleterre et de l'Europe en général pour être sauvés d'un tel danger.

Tout ce qu'ils demandent c'est l'établissement dans ces deux provinces de Thrace et de Macédoine d'une autonomie et d'une égalité de droits pour tous.

Ils prient son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de soumettre au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine les vœux et les aspirations des Soussignés, ainsi qu'ils sont exposés ci-dessus.

Le $\frac{6}{18}$ *Juin*, 1878.

(Signé) Les Primats de la Ville de Vassilicos.

(Suivent les signatures légalisées par l'Evêque de Sozoagathopolis.)

No. 147.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 861.)

Therapia, July 3, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Blunt, with translations of its inclosures, relative to the proceedings of M. Bizzo at Catterina, and to the misconduct of the Circassians in that neighbourhood.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 147.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Democo, June 16, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the Report, in Greek, which I received this morning from Mr. Interpreter Bizzo, relative to his proceedings at Catterina in procuring the release of two of his farm labourers, who had been seized and detained as hostages by the brigands in that district.

I have also the honour of forwarding the following inclosures of Mr. Bizzo's Report:—

A Memorial from the Circassians established in District of Catterina, praying Her Majesty's Government to urge the Porte to remove them to Syria.

A Memorial from the Christian villages in the same district, representing the evils which they suffer from these Circassians.

Copy of a recent Report from the Medjliss of Catterina to the Governor-General of Salonica, upon the growing misconduct of said Circassians.

There is no doubt that the Circassians have done incalculable harm to the rural population in the district of Catterina. Christians and Turks have suffered alike from their excesses, the nature of which I have on various occasions represented to Her Majesty's Embassy; and as the Ottoman authorities of Salonica have not the will or power to subdue their lawless habits, the Porte, in my humble opinion, would do well if it complied with their request to be removed to Syria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 147.

Memorial from Circassian Chiefs of Catterina.

(Traduction.)
A M. le Consul d'Angleterre à Salonique,

NOUS sommes des émigrés Circassiens, qui, depuis treize ans, nous nous sommes établis dans la localité appellée Tihova, du district de Cara-Feria. A la suite des derniers événements les Circassiens établis en Roumélie ayant commencé à passer en Asie, nous avons compris aussi que nous ne pourrons plus longtemps vivre dans la localité sus-nommée, et par conséquent il y a un mois et demi nous expédiâmes une requête au Gouverneur-Général de Salonique pour solliciter qu'il envoyât un bateau à vapeur à l'échelle de Catterina afin de transporter nos familles. Son Excellence nous répondit de patienter encore un peu, jusqu'à l'arrivée des Circassiens qui se trouvent à Perestina et dans des autres endroits, et que, lorsque l'opportunité se présentera, il enverrait le bateau.

Pour cette raison, indépendamment de ce que nous n'avons pas semé cette année, nous nous trouvons avoir vendu, à cause de l'émigration projetée, tous nos bestiaux et notre fourniture, et comme les Circassiens de Roumélie continuent à arriver successivement à Salonique, nous avons été délégués par nos compatriotes de Tihova de solliciter de nouveau, par un requête au Gouverneur, l'expédition du bateau à vapeur précédemment requis.

Nous espérons, il est vrai, que notre requête sera exaucée, mais comme le Gouvernement Impérial est très-occupé actuellement, et qu'il est à craindre pour cela que l'affaire n'aille pas en longueur, considérant, d'un autre côté, que le Gouvernement Anglais est notre ami ancien, et qu'il nous veut du bien, nous avons conçu l'espoir que votre Seigneurie viendra à notre secours pour l'envoi d'un bateau sans trop de retard, soit en vous adressant aux autorités ici, soit en vous référant à l'Ambassade Royale à Constantinople. Nous n'oublierons jamais ce bienfait.

Le 17 *Mai*, 1878.

(Signé) STRAHIM.
OMER.
ALI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 147.

Memorial addressed to Consul Blunt from Villages of Catterina.

(Traduction du Grec.)
Seigneur,

LES Soussignés, habitants des villages de Veria et Catterina, ont l'honneur de vous exposer respectueusement ce qui suit:—

Il y a treize ans 400 familles Circassiennes furent installées dans le village de Tohova près de Catterina, et le Gouvernement nous obligea de donner de l'argent pour bâtir les maisons de ces Circassiens, et de fournir des grains et de l'argent pour leurs besoins. Tout cela nous fournîmes comme de fidèles sujets du Sultan, mais cela n'empêcha point les Circassiens de nous enlever annuellement plus de 500 bestiaux, en chevaux, juments, et bœufs, de sorte qu'à la suite de l'enlèvement de notre bétail, la culture de nos terres rétrograde, et nous sommes réduits de nous servir d'ânes pour faire notre moisson. Nos maisons sont dépouillées; des hommes sont attaqués en chemin, blessés, et plusieurs même tués. Les Circassiens rôdent nuit et jour armés, commettant toute espèce de méfaits, et tant notre vie que notre propriété est à leur merci. Toutes les fois que nous nous sommes plaints aux autorités locales de ce que nous souffrions des Circassiens, nous ne fûmes pas exaucés; et aucune mesure ne fut prise pour réprimer leurs désordres. Or, étant informés du grand bien que vous faites à ceux qui n'ont pas de protection, et que vous êtes le sauveur des malheureux, nous venons prier votre Seigneurie, au nom de la Grande-Bretagne, de nous sauver du fléau terrible des Circassiens.

La question est devenue décisive, à savoir, le Gouvernement tolérera-t-il que ces criminels patentés restent dans notre pays pour qu'ils nous tuent et pillent notre propriété? si cela est, alors qu'il les garde et qu'il laisse nous, ses fidèles sujets depuis 450 ans au nombre de tant de mille âmes, chercher refuge là où notre vie serait en sûreté, et nous pourrions gagner notre subsistence. Nous comptons, cependant, sur

les généreux efforts de votre Seigneurie afin que les criminels patentés en question soient renvoyés d'ici, pour le salut de tant de mille âmes.

Nous adressons, en attendant, des prières ferventes au Tout-Puissant pour la conservation de votre Seigneurie et de celle de la nation Anglaise.

Nous sommes, &c.

(Suivent les sceaux de plusieurs villages.)

Le 21 Mai, 1878.

Inclosure 4 in No. 147.

Report from the Mudir of Catterina to the Governor-General of Salonica.

(Traduction du Turc.)

LES émigrés Circassiens, en répandant eux-mêmes la rumeur qu'un bateau *ad hoc* arriverait à l'échelle de Catterina pour recevoir et transporter à une autre localité les Circassiens qui sont au village Azizie, se mirent à vendre dans le bazar leurs bestiaux et leurs fournitures. En même temps, leurs désordres augmentèrent, et, indépendamment de ce qu'ils volent les bufles, les bœufs, et les chevaux des habitants, ils dépouillent tous ceux qu'ils rencontrent en chemin. La troupe Impériale fait son possible pour empêcher les désordres, mais il n'y a pas moyen de mettre fin aux méfaits de ces Circassiens, et les habitants ne peuvent plus supporter leurs vols et leurs rapines. Nous sollicitons, par conséquent, les ordres de votre Excellence pour les mesures à prendre à leur égard.

Le 23 Mai, 1878.

Inclosure 5 in No. 147.

Report by M. Bizzo.

(Traduction en résumé.)

M. BIZZO, Drogman du Consulat de Salonique, expose ce qui suit :—

Deux de ces fermiers furent capturés par des bandits, qui en demandaient une rançon de 800 livres. Connaissant l'inaptie des autorités, il résolut d'entreprendre lui-même la délivrance de ses hommes. Non-seulement il y réussit, mais il induisit les bandits de se soumettre à l'autorité, qui les amnistia.

Le Gouverneur de Salonique, et les autres membres du Gouvernement, furent très-content de son action. Il ajoute que le grand fléau du pays ce sont les Circassiens, et qu'il est très-heureux que de leur propre volonté ils consentent à s'en aller. Il soumet, ci-inclus, deux requêtes, dont l'une est de la part de ces mêmes Circassiens, qui demandent un bateau pour partir, désirant émigrer à Beyrouth.

M. Bizzo suggère l'opportunité de soutenir cette demande par le moyen de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté, afin qu'ils s'en aillent un moment plutôt du pays.

Il soumet, en outre, un Maghatà du Conseil de Catterina à l'adresse du Gouvernement de Salonique concernant la conduite des Circassiens, qui ne cessent de commettre journellement des horreurs. Il dit que plusieurs bandes de bandits rôdent dans les provinces de Grévená, Castoria, et Hassia, et qu'en outre il y en a jusqu'à 150 depuis le Mont Olympe jusqu'à Vérria. Qu'ils ne commettent pas beaucoup de désordres, et que dans les mêmes localités il n'y a pas mal de bandes d'Albanais, mais qu'on n'en a pas des renseignements précis à cet égard.

Salonique, le 12 Juin, 1878.

No. 148.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 863. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 2*, 1878.

ALEXANDER PASHA (Caratheodory) has telegraphed to the Porte that M. Despotovich has informed Mehemet Ali Pasha that, having learnt that Austria-Hungary was about to occupy Bosnia, and had been authorized by the Congress to do so, he had decided upon going to England to call meetings and to get up an agitation

against this measure, and to endeavour to prevent it. He stated that both the Mussulman and Christian inhabitants of the province were violently opposed to an Austrian occupation, and were determined to resist it. If they were to be separated from Turkey, they demanded annexation to Servia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 149.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 864.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 3*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of appeals addressed to the Berlin Congress by the Mussulmans of Europe and Asia setting forth the wrongs and hardships they have suffered since the signing of the Treaty of San Stefano.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 149.

Appel des Musulmans apprimés au Congrès de Berlin.

[This will be found in "Turkey No. 45 (1878)," page 1.]

No. 150.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 865.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 3*, 1878.

PRINCE LABANOFF called three days ago upon the Grand Vizier to inform his Highness that the Russian Government had accepted the proposal of the Porte to appoint a Mixed Commission to make certain arrangements for the evacuation by the Turkish troops of Shumla and Varna, and afterwards to give over those places to the Russian authorities.

Salvet Pasha replied to the Russian Ambassador that he was ready to name the Turkish Commissioners to proceed to Bulgaria for the purpose of delivering up the two fortresses; but that the Porte expected that, in return for their surrender, Russia would at once move back her troops from Constantinople towards Adrianople, and would give back to the Turks the lines of Tchataldja, and would allow the Turkish prisoners in Russia to return to Turkey.

Prince Labanoff answered that Russia was no longer bound by any promise that she might have made to withdraw her troops from San Stefano, on condition that Varna and Shumla were evacuated. The Congress had decided that those two places were to be given up to Russia, and Turkey must consequently yield upon this point. His Excellency added that he was without instructions as to removal of the Russian army, and as to the return of the Turkish prisoners.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 151.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 867.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 4*, 1878.

CONSUL BLUNT, in a private letter from Larissa, of the 28th ultimo, writes to me:—

"The Turkish authorities, I am bound to say, are doing their best to conciliate the Christians and to carry out faithfully the conditions accepted by the Porte for the pacification of the province; but it is most unfortunate that the Committees in Greece

continue to agitate, and to disturb the efforts which are made to conciliate and quiet the people; and I very much fear that if the Greek Government does not bring some pressure to bear upon these Committees, very serious complications will result from their machinations."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 152.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 868.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 4, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed by the British Vice-Consul at Dédéagatch to Her Majesty's Consul-General. It will give your Lordship some idea of what may be expected in Roumelia when the administration is handed over to Greeks and Bulgarians, and will allow you to judge whether Christian rule will be preferable to Turkish.

Your Lordship will also perceive that the Russian authorities are persistently introducing their administrative system into Turkish provinces which, under no circumstances, will they be entitled to occupy, and which belong to the Sultan; and are exacting duties upon foreign goods to the detriment of English trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 152.

Vice-Consul Willshire to Consul-General Fawcett.

(Extract.)

Dédéagatch, June 27, 1878.

I BEG to confirm my Report of the 10th instant. I little thought that a couple of hours after I had posted it, another attempt to carry off a young Turk from a shop in the principal street of this town would be made by Bulgarian brigands. This took place at noon. The Turk had come from Ferré to leave by the Frassinet steamer. He was sitting in a shop with some other Turks, when a Bulgarian entered and tried to induce him to go out with him, saying that some friends desired to speak to him. The Turk refused, giving for answer that he had no friends here. The Bulgarian then made some remarks to the Turks present, asking them why had they all met in the same place, and that they were not to do so. One of the Turks, having divined the man's intentions, managed to give information to M. Finerelli, the President of the Executive Commission, who immediately came, accompanied by several policemen.

The Bulgarian was arrested, as also two of his companions that were waiting for him in the street, and the three were put into prison. The Bulgarian that entered the shop is one of those who carried off the Turk from the coffee-house on the 24th ultimo, and put him to death so cruelly. The three Bulgarians have been sent to Adrianople to await their trial.

Another attempt to kill a young Turk, under the most atrocious circumstances, was made last week by an Hellenic subject named Nicoli Palanari. This Nicoli Palanari has always been known as one of the worst characters here, but he was enlisted among the policemen of the place after the Turks left.

His audacity was such that when Petro Calafat was falsely accused of having concealed Government stores, he, Palanari, being sent to Calafat's house to order Calafat to appear before Major Borissoff, managed to enter the kitchen and carry off all he could lay his hands upon. Calafat, having complained of him to the Major at the sitting of the Commission on the 23rd February, Palanari, who was present, decided on being revenged, and a few hours after, seeing Calafat passing in the street with Mr. Finerelli, President of the Executive Commission, he went up behind him and struck him several times with his bludgeon. He was arrested and conducted to the Greek Vice-Consul, who contented himself with keeping him in his house for a couple of hours, and then let him go free. This same Palanari is strongly suspected of having entered some time ago, during the night, the house of a merchant here, and of having carried off all the money he found, which, luckily for the merchant, was but a small sum of about 120 liras.

Last week Palanari was returning from the village of Maeri, when he met the young Turk, and after having robbed him of the little money he possessed (a few piastres) he obliged him to submit to the most abominable of actions. He then told him he was going to kill him. The youth tried to run away; Palanari fired three shots at him from his Winchester rifle; one of the shots took effect, and the poor fellow fell. Palanari believing he had killed him, left him lying where he was, but the youth, having regained his senses, managed to join some Turks that were on their way to Maeri, and was taken by them there. He was brought here the next day, and having been interrogated, the description he gave of Palanari left no doubt that he was the guilty man. In fact he immediately recognized him among five other men who bore nearly the same description, and as a proof he adduced that Palanari, though not wearing the same coat, was wearing the same trousers, and that if he were forced to unbutton his coat it would be found that his trousers were torn inside the thigh. This proved true, and Palanari has been sent to prison at Adrianople. I am sorry to say that the wound received by the Turk is such that little hopes are entertained of his recovery. He has been sent to Ferré. In my Report of the 10th instant, I mentioned the name of Peteo, the brigand. You will be suprised to hear that this man with his band of ruffians has been authorized by the Russian authorities at Adrianople to pursue the Bashi-Bazouks, and each of his men has in his possession a pass, and authorized to carry arms. I saw Peteo's band last wednesday (the 20th instant) at the railway station at Souffli, on the best terms with the Russians and Bulgarians there. It certainly does no honour to the Russians to have recourse to men, whose hands have so often been steeped in innocent blood. Major Borissoff with his detachment of troops has been sent to Ipsala, another Major with other troops have arrived here. Colonel Bibikoff has also left for Constantinople on account of his health. The squadrons of his regiment of Cossacks are still in this neighbourhood. I am told his soldiers do not mind now and then stealing a sheep or a goat and selling it to buy spirits. At any rate, their presence has been beneficial to the Turkish villagers, as they are not now so molested by the Bulgarians.

I beg to inform you that orders have been received at the Custom-house from Adrianople that all goods coming from Turkish seaports, though accompanied with the Turkish Custom-house teskeré, are to pay duty, and that the proceeds of the duties levied here since the Russion occupation have been made over to the Russian authorities at Adrianople.

No. 153.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 870.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 5, 1878.

COUNT ZICHY expressed his acknowledgement to me yesterday in very warm terms for the assistance that I had given him in settling the Bosnian question with the Porte. He assured me that he attributed, in a great measure, to the advice that I had given, and to the energetic steps that I had taken to put the occupation of Bosnia by Austrian Troops in its true light before the Turkish Ministers, the successful issue of his negotiations.

I told my colleague that I was glad that in carrying out, as I had done my best to do, your Lordship's instructions, I had been of use in bring this important matter to a satisfactory settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 154.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 872.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 5, 1878.

THE Porte, and the Turkish people in general, cannot understand how it is that nothing has hitherto been done at the Congress to bring about the removal of the Russian army from the gates of the capital. Prince Labanoff, they know, has now officially declared that there is no engagement whatever on the part of Russia to withdraw it, and that as the Congress has decreed the surrender of Shumla and Varna

without any conditions, it has tacitly sanctioned her occupation of Turkish territory up to the walls of Constantinople. They feel that they are living under a constant menace and in continual danger; that Russian agents may at any moment cause disturbances which would offer a pretext for armed interference, and for an attempt to take possession of the city. It is true that there is a general belief that the Turkish army is now not only strong enough to defend the lines it holds, but even to take the offensive with the prospect of being able to inflict a disaster upon the Russians and "to drive them back to Adrianople." Yet there may be misgivings on this subject, and a fear that, if even through Russian provocation war were again to break out, Turkey would be left to her fate by Europe, and would, in the end, have to suffer still more than she has hitherto done. Under these circumstances the Porte is placed under an incessant threat, and is afraid to uphold and defend its interests with independence and boldness at the Congress.

It is not surprising that these apprehensions on the part of the Porte should exist. The Russians would appear to contemplate, by their language and their acts, more than a temporary occupation of the territory they now possess, and in a large part of which they have no right whatever to be, except by force and fraud. Their nearness to the capital is not only a menace to Turkey, but to Europe in general, and especially to England. As long as they remain where they are there is constant danger of panics and of conflicts.

The negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and that of Russia, for the simultaneous withdrawal of our squadron and of the Russian army, seem to have fallen through, or to have been abandoned.

The Russians are acting as if they were now the absolute masters of the territory which they hold. They are collecting the taxes and tithes, they are naming the public functionaries, they are confiscating the property of the Mussulman landholders, and are exercising other acts of sovereignty. And what is worse, they seem to be carrying out steadily the policy openly avowed by General Ignatieff of exterminating, or driving out of the Turkish European provinces, the Mahommedan populations.

The Russian Government and authorities will, of course, deny that they have any such intention, and they may be careful not to afford any direct evidence of it. But there can be no doubt as to the indirect encouragement they are still giving to the Bulgarians to ill-treat the Mussulmans, to destroy their property, and deprive them of their lands. The despatches from our Consular Agents that I send to your Lordship by every messenger appear to afford abundant proof that such is the case, and to show that if Russia be allowed to occupy, for some months more, Roumelia, including that part of it in which the capital itself is situated, it will become virtually a Russianised province, and the Mussulman population, which has been dispossessed of its property and its lands, will not be able to return and be placed again in possession of them without very great difficulty, and, perhaps, serious conflicts and disturbances. In the meanwhile the Russians appear to be making every effort to embitter the feelings of jealousy and hatred which exist between the different Christian sects, as well as, but in a far less degree, between Christians and Mussulmans; thus sowing the seeds of future antagonism and dissensions, which may still assist Russia, as they have hitherto done, in carrying on her intrigues and in pursuing her ambitious designs in the East.

This state of things requires, in my opinion, the earnest attention of the Congress, for I venture to think that no arrangement which can be come to for the settlement of the Turkish question can have a successful result, and can restore peace and tranquillity in the East of Europe, if Russia be allowed time and opportunities to take her measures to frustrate it.

This she will inevitably do if she be permitted to retain possession of Thrace, and to keep her armies at the gates of the capital, for any time longer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 155.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 873.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Philippopolis respecting the progress of the Pomak rising in the Rhodope Mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 155.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, June 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that for more than three weeks nothing of importance has, so far as I know, occurred in this province in connection with the Mussulman rising in the Rhodope hills. The Russians state that they have driven back the mountaineers to within a short distance of Drama, but have nevertheless themselves fallen back, in order to occupy positions which they consider more advantageous.

During their advance the Russians, or their Bulgarian auxiliaries, have, it is stated, burnt a number of Turkish villages in the district of Ruptchus; amongst others, are mentioned, Softeshti, Dranowa, and Gunduz-Mahalessi.

On the other hand, I have it on the authority of no less an anti-Turk than the former Russian Vice-Consul here, that the insurgents, as a rule, have not been guilty of molesting the few Bulgarians who dwell in the districts they (the insurgents) till lately held. When the Russians penetrated into those districts they found all the Bulgarian villages intact, and the Christian inhabitants had little or no cause to complain of the conduct of the insurgent bands.

This fact appears the more noteworthy and the more to the credit of the Turkish mountaineers, or of the Chiefs whom they obey, when it is remembered what were the causes which led them to oppose the Russians, and what the methods adopted to reduce them to submission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 156.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 874.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 6, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 827 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, respecting the outrages committed on the Protestant community of Kayala-Deré by Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 156.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, June 28, 1878.*

THE letter of which I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith has been addressed by a member of the Bulgarian Protestant community at Yamboli to Mrs. Mumford, an American missionary in this town. It relates to a case of outrage upon the Bulgarian Protestant community at Kayaladeré, which appears to have been instigated by the Bulgarian Bishop of Slimnia, and an account of which is already, I understand, in the possession of your Excellency.

The community which has been persecuted in the shameful manner described in this letter numbers about twenty souls. The bearer of the letter, also a Protestant, informs Mrs. Mumford that the two women who were so badly beaten that their lives are in danger, were also violated by their assailants.

In regard to the subject of the Bulgarian converts to Protestantism, it will doubtless interest your Excellency to know that the small scattered native congregations gradually formed in recent years by the American missionaries have all remained faithful to their adopted religion, in the face of the late political convulsions. They have not, hitherto, as a rule, been ill-treated by the Russo-Bulgarian authorities, though previously they had often been told that they would be called to account for their religious opinions when the Russians conquered the country.

The recent proceedings of the Bulgarians at Kayaladeré are, I believe, the first instance of serious and open persecution of Protestants that has yet occurred in these parts.

Mrs. Mumford has, however, lately been obliged to appeal to the Russian authorities on behalf of four Protestant recruits just enrolled in the "Légion," who were beaten and kept twenty-four hours without food for refusing to make the sign of the cross; and a bible-seller at Tatar-Bazardjik has been forbidden to pursue his calling by the Bulgarian President of the Local Council.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 156.

M. Zeleckoff to Mrs. Mumford.

Dear Sister Mumford, *Yamboli, June* 14, 1878.

I WRITE to inform you that a most painful event occurred in the village of Kayaladeré two or three days ago.

In obedience to a call from the church which supports me, I came to Yamboli, and soon after I left Kayaladeré, the Slivno (Slimnia) Vladika (Bishop) came to that village on his return from the monastery where he had been. The villagers told him that there were Protestants in the place, and he sent for them, to see what sort of persons they were. He asked them questions, and they answered him with verses from the Bible, when he charged them not to use the Bible to quote from, and cursed them with anathemas. At last he said: "A whip, a whip is what you need," and departed. The villagers lost no time in applying the remedy suggested, not only cruelly but beyond measure. One man's skull was broken, and two of the sisters are so badly beaten that they cannot recover except by a miracle, only because they would not submit to the dishonourable demands of their persecutors. One man and one woman were stripped entirely naked and forced to dance, while the multitude looked on and laughed. Some of the Protestant brethren ran off to Adrianople and telegraphed to Constantinople of the affair. The crowd searched diligently for me, and broke down my door, tore up and destroyed all my books and papers, and took my clothes. They also took the clothes of the other Protestant brethren.

I thank God that these brethren and sisters were ready to die rather than to deny their Lord. Pray for us.

Your brother in Christ,
(Signed) COSTA ZELECKOFF.

No. 157.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 17.)

(No. 875.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 6, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed to me by Mr. Consul Reade, forwarding translation of a petition from the inhabitants of Tehoul, complaining of their treatment by the Russians, and copies of despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Dalziel, respecting the state of affairs in the Province of Varna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 157.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Pera, July* 1, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the translation by M. Stavrides of a petition sent to the General commanding at Shumla from the village of Tehoul, in the Mudirlick of Yenibazar, Caza of Shumla.

When I was recently at Shumla, I was informed by a person authorized to do so that the Bulgars of Eski-Djuma wished me to transmit to your Excellency their prayer not to be left under the control of the Russians, but under that of all the Great Powers.

I replied that if they sent me a petition in writing I would forward it to your Excellency. A person was therefore sent to Djuma to tell them this, but when I left Varna no such petition had as yet reached me.

There is no doubt but that the Bulgars in general begin to see clearly the real object of the Russians in their quarter. I was told that the taxes imposed on them by the Russians were exorbitantly heavy, and that all the Bulgars who speak the Russian language are employed in preferment, and are paid three or four times more than those who cannot.

The recruiting of Bulgar soldiers is going on actively, but from their dislike to serve many are decamping altogether.

On this subject I was told by reliable persons that the Bulgars hope that whatever military force is imposed on Bulgaria may be sent by the Powers, and not a Russian one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing I have received two despatches from Vice-Consul Dalziel, which I have also the honour to transmit.

R. R.

Inclosure 2 in No. 157.

Petition from the Inhabitants of Tehoul.

(Traduction.)

LES Soussignés, habitants anciens et émigrés Circassiens de village de Tehoul dans le district de Yeni-Bazaar, dépendance de Shumla, ont l'honneur d'exposer ce qui suit:—

Il y a vingt jours une escadron de cavalerie Russe est venue camper dans le susdit village, et elle s'y trouve installée jusqu'à présent. Nos familles se sont enfermées dans les maisons, et nous n'osons pas en sortir. Les Russes, cependant, y entrent sans demander la permission, et font comme s'ils étaient chez eux. Nous avons beau remplir toutes les charges qu'ils nous imposent, cela ne nous garantit point contre les mauvais traitements et ne sauve pas notre récolte qu'ils foulent au pied, ou qu'ils coupent pour donner aux chevaux. Que Dieu conserve votre Excellence pour le service de notre auguste Souverain. Nous la prions de nous délivrer des mains des Russes. Nous abandonnerons s'il le faut nos propriétés et nos récoltes pourvu que nous puissions nous rendre avec nos familles à un lieu de sûreté sous la protection du Gouvernement Ottoman. Notre état est intolérable. Nous supplions, donc votre Excellence d'avoir pitié de nous, et d'envoyer ici une force suffisante de troupes pour nous délivrer.

Dans le mois de Djemazil Akir, 1205.

(Suivent les signatures des Primats et de quelques habitants.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 157.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul R. Reade.

Sir, *Varna, June* 28, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the evening of the 25th I was told by one of my colleagues that an atrocity had been committed in the village of Jaffereli, near this place, the village having been burnt to the ground by Circassians. I could

not believe the story, but felt it my duty to make inquiries. None of the merchants whom I could see on the morning of the 26th knew anything about it, so I called on the Greek Archbishop, who was unfortunately away at the Monastery of St. Demetrius, very near the reported scene of the outrage. His vicar, however, told me that he had seen the Chorbadji of the village that very day, and had heard nothing of it; that he would send for the Chorbadji again, and tell him to call on me. Later on he sent to tell me that the Chorbadji had returned to his village, that nothing whatever had happened at Jafferli, but that there had been some affair at another neighbouring village called Djevisli. I determined to follow up the investigation, therefore yesterday morning I rode out to Djevisli. I was accompanied by Mr. Reade, of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and by three young gentlemen, sons of the most considerable merchants here. Passing by Yeni-keui, we arrived at Djevisli about mid-day, and had luncheon there. A priest came to call on us, as did all the principal villagers. As my young friends spoke Greek, they, at my request, asked these people about the affair, and were informed that absolutely nothing had happened, except that a young man of the village had stolen a horse from a neighbouring Circassian village, and that both he and other four inhabitants had been seized by the police and put in prison in consequence. They said that at present they were perfectly tranquil, but feared the Circassians might be inclined to revenge the theft.

Djevisli contains seventy families, Greeks. We afterwards rode into the Circassian village called Yhedlar, and found its inhabitants celebrating the marriage of their Bey. We remained amongst them for an hour or so, and on our return were accompanied half-way by the Bey and four or five of the principal men.

As reports of outrages have been too frequent, and often get into European journals, doing much injury to the country, I now report the investigation I thought it right to make into this one.

Yesterday there was a review of all the troops in garrison, and a general order was read to them, telling them, amongst other things, that there must be no desertion in future, and that it would be punished by death.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 157.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul R. Reade.

Sir, *Varna, June 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that a trader, who returned last night from Rasgrad, called on me, and told me a number of significant facts regarding the state of the country.

The Civil Governor of Rasgrad is a Russian, the dragoman and other functionaries, including gendarmerie and police, are Bulgars.

On Tuesday last my informant was walking near the konak, he saw the Governor come out and suddenly stop a passenger; he asked him: "Are you a Turk or a Christian?" "I am a Christian," replied the man, an Armenian. "Then are you not ashamed to wear a fez?" said the Governor, and without further parley he gave him two or three boxes on the ear, and the poor Armenian slunk away bare-headed, putting his fez in his pocket.

A young Greek from Varna, called Panaiot Papas-oglu, having paid his licence, opened a store in a village near to Rasgrad, which, having fresh merchandize, had drawn a good custom. Like his Bulgar neighbours he kept it open on Sunday, although that hitherto universal custom is, it seems, forbidden under the new régime. His opponents in trade, jealous of his success, induced the police to seize and imprison him, where he was kept amongst the worst malefactors for four hours, until the Governor had it brought under his notice, when he was released. This young fellow had some wit, for on his release he demanded an interview with the Commandant of the troops and complained to him of his treatment, the result was an order to the Commissary to buy from his shop.

A Bulgar named Elia had lent a saddle to a Turk some six months previously; meeting the Turk the other day on horseback he demanded his saddle, the Turk replied that he had returned it at the time. M. Elia demanded the saddle on which the Turk was riding, and seized his horse; the Turk dismounted to remonstrate, but just then the dragoman of the konak was passing, and, without making any inquiry, gave the Turk a sound beating over the head with his stick.

All the Greeks complain that this dragoman does not interpret what they say at the konak, but puts such words in their mouths as seems good to him. A M. Arsenico, a well-known Greek of Varna, has a store in one of the villages near Rasgrad; lately his store was forced during the night and robbed of 70 pols in gold, of which he gave information to the police, who immediately locked up the only four Greeks in the village.

These people would have had great difficulty in proving their innocence had not the officer commanding the district made an inquiry and found the missing money on the persons of four soldiers (Jews). The money is now deposited in the konak, but whether or not it will ever be returned to M. Arsenico is at least problematical. This gentleman was asked for his passport on the street next day; he replied that it was deposited at the konak, and, notwithstanding that he was as well known as the church steeple, he was dragged by the police to the konak, to see if it really was there. Passports, though nominally required, have been, as you know, never exacted in reality, and more people travel without than with them, but it is a convenient excuse for extortion open to the new Bulgarian zaptié when the object is a hated Greek or Armenian.

All these facts, except the first, are only typical of what any one knowing the Bulgar character could have prophesied would have happened, and will continue to happen as long as power continues to be entrusted to them. They are more money-loving than Jews, in fact, money is all they want, and in their ignorance they wish to prevent any other race dividing with them the spoil, and if it is easy to see what annoyance all others will have to submit to unless some other authority is put in the place once occupied by the Turk.

It is a very significant fact that though there are at least 300 Turkish families in Rasgrad, a Turkish woman is never to be seen out of doors, where formerly they were very much more frequently met than Christian ones.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DALZIEL.

No. 158.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 876.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a dispatch and of its inclosures, which I have received from Consul Blunt, respecting the arrangement alleged to have been made by Mr. Longworth for a neutral zone, and which formed the subject of my telegram to your Lordship No. 591 of the 18th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 158.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, June 25, 1878.*

ON the 17th instant I telegraphed as follows to your Excellency, in answer to your telegram of the previous day:—

"No arrangement was made by Mr. Longworth for neutral zone. Refugees in Greek town of Surbi, after promising him to return, now refuse to do so till Congress has settled Greek question. In the meantime they demand to gather in their crops, with intention of carrying them to Surbi, and try to stipulate that Turkish troops should not advance from their present position at Armyro.

"Said Pasha and Rejeb Pasha will not consent to this, as it is a departure from conditions accepted and decreed by Porte for pacification of Thessaly, and I am of that opinion also. Although large numbers of refugees have returned Committees in Greece are doing their utmost to keep them back, and have spread the report that Thessaly and Epirus will be annexed to Greece."

On my return to Larissa I sent to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens a telegram worded as follows, in answer to one from him on the same subject, dated the 19th instant:—

Larissa, June 24, 1878.

"I received this morning your telegram and letter of 19th instant. Mr. Longworth entered into no arrangement with refugees and insurgents at Armyro for a neutral zone.

"The latter, urged by Committees in Greece, refuse to return, but want to gather in their crops and take them into Greece, and insist upon Turkish troops at Armyro not moving from their present positions. If you approve please press Prime Minister to direct Greek Consul here to accompany me to Armyro and assist me in making a final effort to persuade refugees to return. He is willing but unable to do so without authority.

"Turkish authorities do not object to his assisting in this matter, and will extend to those refugees and insurgents returning the same assistance and protection, according to the conditions of the amnesty, which have been granted to the refugees who have already come back to their homes."

I have since received a further report from Mr. Longworth on his proceedings at Armyro, of which I inclose a copy, as well as a copy of a letter from him denying any knowledge of the arrangement alleged to have been made by him and the refugees for a neutral zone.

With a view to make Mr. Wyndham aware of the present state of affairs in this province, and of the disturbing influences in operation by the Committees in Greece, with regard to the return of the refugees, which affect the efforts made by the Ottoman authorities to pacify the country, I addressed him a report, of which the inclosed is a copy. I furnished Mr. Wyndham in the same report with a copy of the telegram which I addressed to your Excellency on the 21st instant from Tricalla, worded as follows:—

"Turkish frontier authorities report that several small bands of Greek insurgents occupy the Agrapha Mountains, refusing to retire into Greece or to lay down their arms; also that the National Committees in Greece have sent to the frontier 2,500 Chassepôt rifles and twenty horse-loads of ammunition, to be distributed to Christian inhabitants of Agrapha on this side of the border. Governor of Volo reports that thirty volunteers from Greece recently appeared in Mount Pelion, the villages of which are again giving signs of insubordination. Governor of Armyro reports that small bands of insurgents occupy Ossa Mountain, and fire on Turkish troops, and that refugees at Surbi will not return to their homes. In Mount Olympus, also, there are numerous small bands of insurgents and robbers. Most of these bands rob and molest the Christian inhabitants, and pick out as victims those who refused to take part in the late insurrection. The Field-marshal, Ali Saïb Pasha, has sent four battalions to Armyro to reoccupy Turkish block-houses near the border. Porte should order him to act with prudence and moderation, and Greek Government should be urged to take measures against the designs of the Committees, otherwise I apprehend serious disturbances will soon result from the circumstances I have reported. I shall return to Larissa on the 23rd instant."

The foregoing summarizes the prospect of probable occurrences of a serious nature in the Turco-Greek provinces; and from all I have heard and observed during my late tour in Armyro, Pharsala, Domoco, Carditza, Tricalla, and Tirnova, I apprehend that the revolutionary Committees in Greece are preparing a new rising in this direction, in case their hopes of the annexation of Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia are not realized by the decision of the Congress. The agent Ironomides, and the others acting with him, are endeavouring to discredit the Ottoman authorities by showing that they fail in carrying out their given promises, and are acting in a manner to give an appearance that these authorities are affording just motives for a fresh outbreak.

On the other hand, the Turks are becoming uneasy at these machinations of the Committees, and have urged the Porte to countermand the further withdrawal of any troops from Thessaly.

In the meantime acts of brigandage are constant in all directions, and I very much fear that the provincial authorities will not be able to successfully cope with the evil so long as it is fomented by the political circumstances I have noticed.

I continue to recommend Said Pasha and Redjeb Pasha to act with prudence and moderation, and to try to avoid, if possible, any collision with the Greek bands in the vicinity of the border, or giving any cause which may be taken advantage of as a pretext for complaint.

With reference to the present state of brigandage, I may mention that within the last twenty days the bands in Alhasona have carried off to the mountains six Christian hostages from the villages in that district for whose rescue they demand heavy ransoms.

I inclose the translated copy of a letter to the Rabbi of Larissa, from a Greek brigand chief who assumes the name of "Capitan Cariasco," demanding the heavy ransom of 1,500*l.* Turkish for the rescue of Aroni, a poor Jew of this town, whom he recently captured and carried off to Mount Olympus.

Several Christian villagers of the district of Tricalla (which took no part in the late insurrection) have also been recently captured by brigands (composed of Sarakatchans, Albanian deserters from the Turkish frontier guards, and Arvanito-Vlachs) and released by them upon payment of ransoms averaging from 10*l.* to 100*l.* Turkish each.

One of these bands visited Mertcho, a farm in that district, only a few days before I was at Tricalla, and levied blackmail from the tenants to the amount of 500*l.* Turkish. The military pursued and dispersed some of the bands, capturing the robber chief Zako alive, and severely wounding one of his men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 168.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Armyro, June* 20, 1878.

IN continuation of my Report No. 2 of the 6th instant, I beg to furnish you with the following Memorandums relative to the affairs of this district:—

Friday, June 7th.—A letter from Dimitri Ieonomidi informs me that the refugees are leaving Surbi for the villages, and that even the Platanios have begun to work in their fields.

Sunday, June 9th.—The Kaimacam, the Bimbashi, Nahim Effendi, and myself and others, rode over to Platanos to see and encourage the returning refugees. At our appearance, though without soldiers, the men, women, and children fled to the heights above the village. We stopped a few of them to whom, the Turkish officials gave every possible assurance of their friendly disposition. The Platanios have only commenced to remain during day in their grounds, they return for the night into Greek territory.

Monday, June 10th.—Some vague information having reached me that the insurgents contemplated mischief to-night, I rode over to the grounds of the Platanios to ascertain the truth of the report.

To my surprise, instead of finding the people working in the fields as I did the day before, I came across an outpost of 100 insurgents holding the heights of Kefalos.

On being recognized, they greeted me with a volley of shots, and escorted me to Surbi, where I at once decided to go to meet their chief men and to find out the cause of this movement.

The carrying of arms being prohibited in Greece, the insurgents, I remarked, conceal their rifles in brambles and bushes before they cross the frontier, so as not to be confiscated from them by the Greek frontier authorities.

I had a long talk this evening with the refugees at Surbi. They tell me that the arrival at Armyro of two Pashas with Turkish troops was reported among them with some apprehension. The object of their visit, they were told, is hostile to the insurgents, and that our attempts at pacification are not at all countenanced by them. In consequence of this belief, they had contrived a plot for the night of setting ablaze, as a sheer act of defiance, the crops in the fields about Armyro.

I, of course, most emphatically contradicted these falsehoods, and endeavoured to assure them that the desire of the Pashas was to aid in our attempt at reconciliation; and that Mr. Consul Blunt is accompanying them to see that the promises of the Porte are being faithfully carried out.

I also took this opportunity of once more advising them, by a series of arguments, to return to their homes, and not to allow themselves to be influenced by mere rumour and intrigue.

With regard to the 130 refugee families that had left these parts for the district of Armyro, mentioned in my entry of the 5th instant, I should state that on inquiry

to-day into which of the villages they had entered, I was told that as they are the families of shepherds, they do not inhabit any village at all, but lead a nomadic life in the mountains. We, consequently, find that as yet none of the deserted villages (of Armyro) are inhabited. Platano with 350 houses; Kokutos with its 80; Vrisina with its 70; Kofous with its 41; Drimona with its 24; Keliaria with its 15; and Calivia with its 10, remain still abandoned.

Wednesday, June 12th.—A letter from the chief Yanni Cantarji informs me that the brigands are afraid to fulfil their promise to lay down their arms, owing to a report that the Pashas are badly disposed towards them. I assured him at once that this was false.

Friday, June 14th.—I met once more the brigands, the insurgents, and the refugees of the district at Kefalos.

Yanni Cantarjis banditti have now quite given up their purpose of yielding themselves up. They promise, however, not only to remain quiet, but to prevent others from committing mischief.

The refugees and insurgents have also given me a last and conclusive reply. They cannot, as a whole, return to their homes until the end of the Congress.

The object of this decision is to show that the insurrection is not extinct, but dormant; for, in taking a full view of the question, it is very apparent that these people are not acting independently, but are being influenced in the matter by the associations and committees in Greece.

They entreated a fifteen days' prolongation of the armistice to gather in their crops, which is refused them by the authorities, as they consider it a departure from the conditions of the amnesty.

Saturday, June 15th.—Yesterday the Platanists fired upon a sailing-boat coming in from Volo, supposed to contain soldiers. The boat's rigging was destroyed, but no one in her was hurt.

Tuesday, June 18th.—There having been a talk yesterday of sending troops to the Turkish frontier guard-house, "Chattali," the insurgents burnt it down this morning.

Wednesday, June 19th.—The neighbouring mountains are being infested by three or four detached bands of brigands, who are repeatedly sending threatening letters to the wealthier inhabitants of Armyro, in order to obtain gratuitously food, money, and clothing; but, I am glad to say, so far, the brigand chief, Yanni Cantarji, with his 64 men, has proved true to his word, for he is now acting the part of a police up in the mountains, and appears to be exercising there some influence.

The local authorities are trying to persuade the Turkish refugees to return to their villages without their families to collect their crops, but most of these men refuse, or rather cannot do this, owing to a practice amongst them of making the women do all the work in their fields and in their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 158.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Dear Sir, *Armyro, June 24, 1878.*

IN answer to your inquiries relative to the reports in circulation, that I had made an arrangement with the refugees of Armyro for a neutral zone, &c., I hasten to inform you that these reports are without foundation; and that in my communications with the refugees I have made to them no proposals different to those which are embodied in the conditions accepted by the Porte for the pacification of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 158.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Larissa, June 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your information, a copy of my Report from Domoco of the 16th instant, and of my telegram from Tricalla of the 21st idem, to

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, upon the present situation of affairs in Thessaly.

I also inclose a copy of my telegram to you of the 24th instant, relative to an arrangement for a neutral zone, which it is alleged has been made by Mr. Longworth with the refugees from the district of Armyro, and suggesting that the Greek Consul here should be authorized to accompany me to Armyro, and assist me in making a final effort to persuade the refugees to return.

Had Mr. Longworth made the above arrangement, he would have mentioned it to me during my visit to Armyro on the 10th and 11th instant. Nor do the reports I have since received from him at all allude to such a subject; and I may add that the Governor and the Commandant of Armyro deny any knowledge of that arrangement.

M. Iconomides, who is acting as the representative of the refugees from the district of Armyro, was formerly member of the Administrative Council of that place, and upon the breaking out of the insurrection he put himself at the head of the insurgents of his district. He is now actively using the influence he has with the Christian villagers to dissuade them from returning to their homes. It also appears that he has been dissembling in his communications with me and other parties relative to these refugees.

During my late visit to Lamia he first told me that the refugees would not return to their homes; subsequently he declared to me, in presence of the Nomarch, that after the assurances I had given he and his people would all come back. Shortly after my departure from Lamia he telegraphed, I am told, to Athens, that I had misunderstood the intentions of the refugees, and that none of the latter had returned, or intended to return, to their villages.

In the meantime, he carried on communications with the Turkish authorities, leading them to believe that he was making arrangements to effect the return of the refugees.

He wrote a letter to Rejeb Pasha, of which I inclose a copy, with a copy of my despatch to Mr. Layard on the subject, assuring his Excellency that all the refugees would return, and giving as an excuse why they had delayed doing so the story about the ransom of 300*l.* demanded of them by the Commandant of Armyro.

I should add that an impression prevails at Armyro that this story was fabricated and reported by Iconomides to the Greek Government to serve the double purpose of intimidating the refugees and discrediting the Turkish authorities. Be this as it may, as soon as Rejeb Pasha arrived at Armyro, Iconomides evaded him, left Sudbi for Lamia, and delayed answering the Pasha's letter till after the latter had arrived at Domoco, ten days later.

I believe Iconomides had some communications with Mr. Longworth; and I think it likely that he may have interpreted these in a way to suit his own views, and accordingly inserted the account contained in the Greek newspapers of Lamia and Athens of the arrangement alleged to have been made by Mr. Longworth.

I hope to have a full explanation from the latter on this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 158.

(Translated from the Greek.)

To the Rabbi, David Angelo, Larissa.

LEARN that I have caught Aroni, whom you sent to purchase cheese for you, and that if from this day's date up to the $\frac{1}{13}$th instant you fail to send to me 1,500 liras, together with a watch and chain, both in gold, and a binocle field glass, know that we shall cut him into four pieces; and that it will be your fault, and of those of all your creed who have sent him. Dated $\frac{4}{16}$th June, 1878.

(Signed) CAPITAN CARAISCO.

No. 159.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 17.)

(No. 877.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to forward copy ofdespatches from Acting Consul Calvert at Adrianople, giving particulars respecting the Rhodope insurrection, and reporting military intelligence from the 27th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 159.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, July 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that there has been no further fighting in the neighbourhood of Ortakioï and the Valley of the Arda since my last Report on the subject, of the 9th ultimo.

On the 10th June the insurgent Chief, Djanavarli, made pacific overtures to the Russian officer in command at Ortakioï, with a view to obtaining permission for the inhabitants of the destroyed Turkish villages who had taken refuge with the insurgents to harvest their crops. These overtures were rejected, but the Russians appear to have acquiesced for the time being in the retention of the places recovered by the insurgents during their repulse of the general Russian assault towards the end of May.

Thus the insurgents in these parts are, at least for the present, tacitly allowed to maintain the positions occupied by them at the first outbreak of the movement, that is to say, all the country to the west of Ortakioï and Slidja.

As regards the parts near Hasskioï, reinforcements were despatched from Adrianople on the 16th and 18th ultimo, in consequence of a threatened attack in that quarter, but, so far as I am aware, no actual hostilities have taken place there.

I am assured that during the engagements which followed the late general attack about a month ago, a body of insurgents, making a sudden descent from the hills above Hasskioï, surprised and cut in pieces a Russian detachment of ninety men near Yenidjeli, between Hebibtchè and Harmanli. As I have this statement from a Turkish source I repeat it under reserve. Its circumstantiality seems to place it above the category of a vague rumour, but it is difficult to say whether the improbableness of the scene of the alleged event detracts from, or adds to, its credibility. If true, it would account for the rumours which at that time prevailed, of a Russian disaster in the neighbourhood of Hasskioï, as reported in my despatch to your Excellency of the 4th ultimo.

I may here offer a few general remarks on the movement in the Rhodope. In my despatch of the 16th April, reporting the first breaking out of hostilities, I had the honour to point out that the character of the movement was defensive only. That character has been maintained, and with success, up to the present time, the mountaineers taking to arms only when attacked. It was for that reason that I described the movement as a "guerilla" one, and only adopted the term "insurrection" when the Mussulman combatants formally declined to obey the mandates of the Porte. The term "Pomak insurrection," adopted by some of the London journals, is, in a rough sense, ethnologically correct so far as regards the hills above Tatar-Bazardjik and Philippopolis, and the district of Akhy Tchelebi, where the Mahommedan population belongs almost exclusively to the Bulgarian race. The Mussulman inhabitants of the country further eastwards and to the south of Hasskioï are, however, exclusively Turks. The connection between these two categories of insurgents is closer than that between the latter and the Turkish insurgents on the right bank of the Arda, or between these last and those still further south, where again the Pomak element predominates. These last mentioned Pomaks, who inhabit the Sitchaudjik Mountain and its neighbourhood, although they have taken up arms, have been comparatively but little engaged, and for this reason, that the Christian element in those parts is numerically weak, and has found it prudent not to molest their Mussulman neighbours.

As regards the treatment of the Christian population by the Mussulmans within the insurgent districts, I am able to adduce convincing testimony that it is of the same favourable character south of the Arda as in the parts further north, as recently reported

by Mr. Acting Vice-Consul T. Calvert of Philippopolis. Wherever instances in seeming contradiction to this friendly spirit have occurred they are ascribable to retaliation for specific injuries received. This fact has been admitted to me by a Greek gentleman of fair and unbiassed views with respect to the village of Plavon, where, as reported in my despatch of the 9th ultimo, the victorious insurgents massacred all the inhabitants whom they found there, to the number of eighteen. I was unable to obtain from this informant any particulars; he contented himself with stating, in general terms, that the Greeks of Plavon had brought it on themselves. I have, however, since been told by a foreign resident here that a Russian officer who was at Plavon previous to its capture by the insurgents, expressed to him his indignation at seeing there the bodies of inoffensive Turkish villagers, who had been slaughtered without provocation by the Greeks. This then, no doubt, was the act which provoked the bloody retaliation inflicted by the insurgents at that particular spot. That such acts of bloodshed on the part of the insurgents are not general or indiscriminate has been expressly attested by some Greeks from Beshtepeh, a village within the insurgent lines, and two hours beyond Ortakioï. These men have been allowed to bring to Adrianople, as usual, charcoal for sale. One of them told a foreign resident here, who was dealing with him, that they are perfectly well treated by the insurgents, and that these tell them that they, and the inhabitants of the other Christian villages in those parts who have behaved well, have nothing to fear. The insurgents added, however, that, as regards the people of the neighbouring Greek villages of Ortakioï, Akalan, Arnaoutkioï, and Plavon, they would take every possible opportunity of punishing them for the massacres and outrages to which they had subjected the Mussulmans who fell into their power.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 159.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, July 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the 27th ultimo, two field batteries arrived at Yeni-Zaghra. These are supposed to be part of the twenty-four batteries referred to in my despatch of the 26th ultimo as expected there from the Danube. On the same day a number of troops belonging to the Bulgarian Legion arrived at the same place. The further destination of these guns and troops is not yet known.

On the 27th June eighty double caissons, each drawn by six horses, arrived by road from the north and left on the following day, taking the highway towards Constantinople. On the 30th, over 100 similar caissons came and went on next day; and again, on the 1st and 2nd instant, nine more caissons arrived and left the same way. Yesterday, forty large ammunition-waggons passed through, also taking the road to Constantinople.

There was a discontinuation in the movement of troops from Yeni-Zaghra subsequent to my report of the 26th June, or a day or two before, but on the 28th it recommenced. The train which was conveying these further reinforcements met, however, with an accident through the breaking-down of a wooden bridge near Karabunar, and railway communication has since been interrupted. Fifteen men were killed and thirty-nine injured by this accident. Meanwhile, 8,000 more troops, all fresh levies coming direct from Russia, have already crossed the Balkans and are expected here on their way southwards.

The Russians are reported to be building another bridge over the Maritza opposite Bidigli, on the Dédéagatch line. This bridge appears to have been begun about the same time as that near Démotica. The map shows that the road to Keshan from Bidigli is shorter than that from Ferredjik, where there is no bridge, but a ferry only; so that the construction of a bridge at Bidigli will save distance to Keshan by road as well as by rail.

A Greek who arrived here a few days ago from Keshan reports that a great concentration of troops and artillery is taking place in that quarter. Every house in the town and the neighbouring villages is, he reports, filled with soldiers. Their number is estimated at 30,000. They have been in part drawn from Ferredjik, Ipsala, and other places which have been abandoned in consequence of their unhealthy climate. The same informant states that the field-guns collected in and about Keshan were reckoned up by persons there, and their number found to be no less than 180. I give this information for what it may be worth.

Persons arrived from Kirk-Kilissa report that a depôt of provisions is being formed there on the same stupendous scale as that at Demirdash (in this neighbourhood) and

other places. Besides the supplies furnished by the Russian Commissariat, quantities of grain and of hay, confiscated from Turkish owners, are being brought in and collected there.

A very remarkable activity is being displayed in the making or improvement of roads, evidently intended for military purposes, all over the country. A letter received from one of the Turkish labourers who have lately been sent in thousands towards Constantinople, states that the party to which he belongs are employed in making (that is, perhaps, repairing) a road between the Sinekli station and Tchataldja. "The steep places are being levelled," says the letter, "whilst the level ground is left untouched." The road in question is presumably the existing one which follows the general direction of the railway.

Another road is being made (from Tchataldja, according to one informant, according to another from Tchorlu) to the Black Sea. Two thousand Turkish labourers have been engaged for this purpose, and have already left.

A very great number of Russian labourers, stated to be 10,000, arrived at Yeni-Zaghra on the 30th June, each provided with a pickaxe, shovel, or other implement. The destination of these men and the nature of the work they are to be employed upon have not yet transpired.

Another review was held here on the 26th June, in honour of Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, then here on a visit. There were on the ground fourteen battalions of infantry and six field batteries, two of which last were served by mounted Cossacks and the other four by artillerymen on foot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 160.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 883.)

Therapia, July 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by Vice-Consul Brophy. It affords a further illustration of the kind of rule that has been substituted by Russia for that of the Porte. It is scarcely surprising that with such a state of things all the populations, except the Bulgarian, "are crying out for the return of the Turks."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 160.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, July 2, 1878.

My dear Sir,

THE news that this part of Roumelia is not to form part of the new Bœotia (*sic*) was welcomed here by all but the Bulgarians with the same sort of feeling of relief which one experiences on waking from a bad dream. The Bulgarians, whose brief tenure of authority has been marked by corruption, insolence, ignorance, and tyranny, are naturally disgusted, not only because their opportunities of plundering and oppressing their neighbours appear to be drawing to a close, but also because they fear (and, I hope, with good cause) that they may be called to account for their proceedings.

It is, indeed, chiefly upon this latter point that I have to write, and to make some suggestions which perhaps you may approve of; and, in speaking about the Bulgarian authorities of Bourgas only, I am afraid that my statements will apply with more or less of justice to their official colleagues throughout the country.

As in Bourgas there were not to be found a sufficient number of Bulgarians whose acquaintance with the rudiments of education was sufficient to give them even an appearance of being able to assist in reorganizing the country, a lot of other and rather more learned Bulgarians presented themselves from Kazan, Slimnia, Eski-Zaghra, &c., and were entrusted with the reins of Provisional Government; they have at least managed to drive a good deal of public and private money into their own pockets by means which can easily be made known when they are "out of office."

Under the Turkish régime the President Reis of every separate administrative department was obliged to find a pecuniary guarantee in case of his embezzling any of the

money which passed through his hands; but the new Bulgarians were allowed to confine themselves to taking an oath of some kind, which is but poor security for any possible complainants who may hereafter appear against them. That public and private funds have been wrongfully appropriated by them is here a matter of notoriety, and that many persons will prefer serious complaints against them as soon as there is a chance of bringing them before an impartial tribunal is equally certain. Still, as most of these gentlemen have no stake in the neighbourhood, nothing will be easier for them than to leave this part of the country with their ill-gotten gains before the constitution of any Court before which they can be arraigned.

Would it be possible to take any measures by which these persons should be compelled to give an account of their stewardship? If it be so, I am persuaded that a great deal of private property (or its equivalent in money) might be recovered for the benefit of the poor Turkish owners, who, God knows, want it badly enough wherever they may be.

As for Government money, the Customs here have been under the direction of a Bulgarian who had nothing at the time of his introduction to his post, who is now well off, and who has seldom troubled himself to give receipts for the dues paid to him; the latter fact being brought to the notice of the authorities, the answer was, "Oh! no matter; he is perfectly trustworthy!"

I am certain, and I believe I could prove, that this man has grossly falsified the returns of imports into Bourgas.

Another, and perhaps a still more important, point is that the Porte ought absolutely to send some sort of Commissioner here (as I suppose it could now do in accordance with both law and equity) to protect not only the interests, but the lives and the honour of the Mussulman population, and to act as their adviser and protector.

How far some such measure is necessary to protect unoffending Mussulmans against open violence the despatch concerning the affair at Kara Abbalilar (which I send with this letter) will show; to what extent it appears necessary to save Turkish peasants from having the sown fields belonging to them being eaten up by organized official robbery will perhaps be evident from the following statements, of which I can guarantee the exactitude.

Many peasant proprietors and other landowners, who had left their homes, made contracts at Constantinople (which were legalized by the Russian Consulate-General there), empowering native or foreign merchants to reap their fields for them, generally on the condition of the owners receiving half the crop, after deduction of the tithe or other tax due to Government.

On these contracts being shown to the authorities here, they refused to recognize their validity, and would only allow them to be carried out on condition that two-thirds of the whole crop should be handed over to them (the authorities) as a security for any claims which might be brought against the owners. As the third thus left to the contractors, who undertook to reap, &c., would not leave any profit, but probably a considerable loss, they unanimously refused to accept the terms offered; the Government then authorized the neighbouring Bulgarian peasants to collect the harvest of their late Mussulman neighbours, half to go to themselves, and half to pay the possible liabilities of the proprietors. The effect of this measure will be—and I speak as knowing the character of the average Bulgarian peasant, and with some months' experience of the present Rulers—that the former will appropriate at least three-fourths, the authorities will take two-twelfths for their trouble in looking after the affair, and one-twelfth will remain for some little time in depôt, but the Turk who sowed the grain will never eat bread from it. The only exception to this general rule is that in some cases the authorities may succeed in getting the lion's share, and leave the one-sixth to the peasant; but whatever may be the relative positions of the two stools, the Turk is sure to fall between them.

At Achlalo a still more barefaced system of plunder was carried into execution; crops belonging to absent Mussulmans, covering in reality about 350 acres, but estimated by the authorities at about 280, were announced (by a placarded circular) as to be sold by auction at the upset price of 3 silver roubles per kilé, rather more than half an acre. The intending purchasers were numerous, and immediately went out to inspect the fields, and calculate what price they could bid up to; however, within three hours, the placards were all torn down by policemen, and it was announced that the fields in question had been sold at the upset price of 3 silver roubles per kilé, the purchasers being the Bulgarian President of the Council, and two or three of his friends and acquaintance. A Russo-Bulgarian, a stranger here, offered to purchase the same fields at 12 roubles per kilé, but was told that as the sale had been made it could not be rescinded. From him I learn that (as in this case there was no stipulation as to any proportion being left to pay debts)

he calculated the imperial quarter would cost the fortunate purchasers between 7*s.* and 8*s.* in the granaries.

As a specimen of the manner in which Mussulman landowners who may venture to return to their homes are treated here, I inclose, on a separate sheet of paper, the case of Rifaat Effendi, of Bourgas, in which, however, I have omitted to say that Rifaat Effendi's sheep were sold only on condition of the purchaser driving them across the Balkans, so that there should be less chance of their being recovered.

To-day, July 3, I am able to say that nothing has been done for Kara Abbaliler or Belcoren; the two Generals, Bodisco and Zaloff (or Saloff, Commanding Division 24), blamed Ivanczo, said they would have sent off a cavalry squadron immediately, &c., &c., but nothing has been done; the Turks, however, could have told the names of at least fifteen of the Bulgarian looters. I hope you may think well of the idea of sending a Turkish Commissioner here. I assure you it is most necessary. I do what I can, but I do not like to expose myself unnecessarily to Bulgarian official impertinence, and, unfortunately, I live in a hole which is a cul-de-sac, so that I don't like to ask Turkish peasants to come to my house, otherwise I am certain that I should have plenty and more than plenty of tales of Bulgarian tyranny to relate; as it is I confine myself to letting your Excellency know what I can absolutely guarantee the truth of, and I trust you will be of my opinion, that the Porte ought not to leave its subjects at the mercy of a pitiless race, even though it be only for a short time.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 160.

Notes.

RIFAAT EFFENDI, son of the late Hadji Hafiz Hassan Effendi, and owner of the farm of Airandi, in the Caza of Bourgas, returned to Bourgas on the 8th June, 1878, to look after his estate, on which he had left about 200 acres of growing wheat, 613 horses, oxen, and buffaloes, 961 sheep, and other property.

He presented a petition to the local authorities asking to be paid the sum received by them for his cattle and sheep sold by their orders, and received a verbal answer that they had only sold 526 sheep, and no cattle or horses.

Rifaat Effendi, having already identified some of his cattle in the hands of peasants who had bought them from the police here, and produced written documents to that effect, presented a second petition, requesting the authorities to give him a written assurance that they had sold none of his cattle. To this a verbal answer was returned, "that they refused to do so."

Rifaat Effendi's third petition stated that he had left at Airandi 585 okes of wool, and other articles to the value of 150*l.*; that, as the police had sent a Bulgarian (named Detcho) to bring them to Bourgas, he requested to know where they were, and to claim them as his property. To this a verbal answer was given that they had 330 okes of his wool and other things, but that these they would give up to him. Two days afterwards they refused to restore anything.

Rifaat Effendi's fourth petition requested payment of the sum received for the 526 sheep the authorities acknowledged having sold, and the answer, verbal, was a definite refusal.

On the 22nd June the authorities called Rifaat Effendi, and made a verbal bargain with him for leave to cut grass from his meadows and fallows at Airandi, and on the 30th June told him that they would not pay for his grass, and interdicted him from trying to reap his fields.

Besides the fields at Airandi, Rifaat Effendi has about 180 acres of wheat, sown in partnership with a Bulgarian (Kiriaco), at Ligia-keui, near Bourgas; half of this the authorities have intimated their intention to reap and to keep.

No claim for debts has been presented against Rifaat Effendi; the only person who (as far as I know) has any sum to receive from him—a Jew, who is owed something less than 200*l.*—declining to make any claim at present.

The estate of Airandi, after having been for many years in the possession of Rifaat Effendi's father, was, some five or six years since, sold by auction by the Turkish authorities as "mahoul" (Crown lands), and purchased by a Bulgarian from the Government, but this sale was afterwards quashed as illegal by the Constantinople Tribunals, and the property restored to Rifaat, whose father had died during the interim. The Bulgarian

purchaser being now here, and a member of the Provisional Government, it is easy to understand the animus which has prompted not only the already-mentioned action of the authorities, but a system of persecution which consists in persuading Bulgarians to make frivolous or groundless complaints against Rifaat Effendi, and of which the following are specimens:—

A Bulgarian complains to the authorities that Rifaat Effendi, when President of the Municipality, fined him 30 piastres for presenting a petition on unstamped paper. A Bulgarian complains that Rifaat Effendi, at the time of the evacuation of Bourgas, came to him dressed in Circassian costume, and extorted 20*l.* by threats; there was no evidence, and no one here believes Rifaat Effendi to be capable of such an act. A Bulgarian complains that at the time of the evacuation there was a sum of 26*l.* Turkish in the Municipality exchequer, forming part of a bankrupt's assets, and which would have been allotted to him (the complainant). This is admitted by Rifaat Effendi, who alleges and offers to prove that the said moneys are in the hands of the proper authorities at Stamboul; he is, however, condemned to pay the sum demanded.

At the instance of the Bulgarian purchaser of Airandi, Rifaat Effendi is compelled to find bail that he will not leave Bourgas, on a charge that, about four years ago, his "gardes-champêtres" killed a Bulgarian and wounded three others. This accusation is generally believed to be false, and had such a crime been committed, would have been made at the time alleged.

No. 161.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 17.)

(No. 884.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Brophy, on the subject of outrages committed by Bulgarians upon the Mussulman inhabitants of Kara Abbaliler, in the district of Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 161.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Bourgas, July 4, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 28rd instant two Proclamations from the Russian Government of Slimnia were posted up in the town; the first, bearing the date of the 22nd, was to the effect that "many complaints having been received from Mussulmans who, whether remaining in the country, or having returned to their homes after their emigration in time of war, had received ill-treatment at the hands of Bulgarians; all Bulgarians, and persons of other nationalities, who may continue to be guilty of similar disorders (ἀλαξάς) will be punished according to martial law, without distinction of religion or race." The second related to various similar complaints made by Armenians, and only differed from the first in alluding to the quality of all in the eyes of the law," and in making no mention of martial law.

The fact that the Government of Slimnia has found it necessary to issue such circulars as the above is in itself a proof that the crimes complained of must be of general, and not merely local, occurrence; to what extent they take place in this district may be judged from the following statement:—

On the same day that these circulars were posted the Mussulman (Kissil Bash, of the Persian schism) inhabitants of the village of Kara Abbaliler (wrongly marked "Karabaular" on the Austrian Staff map) in this caza, and lying between Bourgas and Kirk Kilissa, brought a petition to Ivanczo Effendi, the Bulgarian President of the Council here, to the effect that, on the 21st instant, about sunset, four persons, in the dress of Russian infantry soldiers, but one of whom was recognized as being a Bulgarian of the town of Gutchuk Tirnovo (a few hours distant) arrived at the village and called out the head men, to whom they announced themselves as coming with (Russian) orders to write down the names of every male between the ages of 20 and 60.

Fifty-four men were thus collected within an inclosure, where, under various pretexts, they were kept till between 2 and 3 A.M., being guarded by about a score of Bulgarians,

armed with Martini rifles. At this hour a rush was made by some 180 other Bulgarians, who had gradually been collecting round Kara Abbalilar, and who belonged chiefly to the villages of:—

Kourshova, in the Caza of Bourgas.
Tchalaïk, " "
Coula, in the Caza of Kirk Kilissa.
Bourgasdjik " "
Kovtchas " "
Dereken, in the Caza of Bounar Hissar.

These brigands drove off 185 head of cattle and horses, from 2,000 to 2,200 sheep, and stripped the houses in the village of everything portable, committing every species of outrage and cruelty, ill-using a number of women and girls.

In the meantime the Bulgarians who mounted guard over the men in the inclosure called out from among them, by name, four: Ouzoun Ali, Kumurdji Abdi, Keussé Hussein, Kara Gueuz Hodja, whom they took outside the village and commenced to torture, in order to make them give up their hoarded money: the three first they burned with red-hot irons applied to the nape of the neck, and the fourth they beat with sticks; the sufferers at last consented to give up what money they had in the Eastern peasants' only savings' bank—hidden under ground—and the sums thus collected from the Turks were respectively (in the order I have written their names): 100*l.*, 90*l.*, 40*l.*, and 6*l.* Turkish.

As I have been obliged to mention a number of women were outraged; my informants, whilst saying that few had escaped, only knew the names of the following, which I give merely to avoid any possible doubt being thrown upon this blackest part of a black business:—

Hava and Zuleika, daughters-in-law of Ouzoun Ali.
Fatimeh, unmarried daughter of Kara Gueuz Kambor.
Fatimeh, wife of Kara Gueuz Hodja.
Houri, daughter-in-law of Baldirli Hassein.
Khanifé, wife of Hassan Hodja.

The messengers reported that the men who had been tortured were not expected to survive.

The petition of which I have given the substance was, as I have said, given into the hands of Ivanezo Effendi, the Bulgarian President of Council, who contented himself with giving the petitioners a paper signed by himself, upon presentation of which at the village of Dalgherli (between Bourgas and Kara Abbalilar) the soldiers stationed there would, he said, accompany them and take the necessary measures for the punishment of the guilty persons. Such a document, signed by a civilian, would, as Ivanezo must have known, be merely waste paper.

On the 28th instant two of the Russian Generals commanding here called upon me, and I took the opportunity of speaking to them about this affair. They expressed the greatest astonishment at Ivanezo not having reported such a serious occurrence to the military authorities, and promised me to see that justice was done.

Since then twenty Bulgarians have been arrested and brought here, but were released from prison within twenty-four hours without having been confronted with their accusers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

No. 162.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 17.*)

(No. 888.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Consul Reade and Mr. Vice-Consul Sankey, giving an account of the state of affairs in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 162.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, July 5, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Sankey, of Kustendji, dated the 12th ultimo, but which only reached me two days ago.

The troops, said by Mr. Sankey to have started in the direction of Varna, marched to Baltchik and Bazardjik.

What the Vice-Consul says about the contempt of rights, of destruction and forcible occupation of private property by the Russians, agrees with what I have constantly heard on the subject from almost every direction.

A curious case occurred lately at Rustchuk, which shows what the Bulgars are as regards bribery.

Murad, a Mussulman employé of the railway, went recently to Rustchuk to try to get back the house of his father-in-law, and which had been taken possession of by the Bulgars.

On his arrival at Rustchuk, Murad was advised to petition the Tribunal (composed of Bulgars).

He did so, and exhibited the title-deeds of the house. But they would not listen to him, and dismissed him.

Murad, in despair, consulted a friend, who advised him to apply to a certain Hajji Atanas, one of the principal Bulgars of Rustchuk and a leading member of the Tribunal, and not to forget to take some liras in his pocket.

He accordingly went to Hajji Atanas, and at once begged him to accept a small present as a mark of regard, and handed him the liras, which were at once consigned to the Hajji's pocket.

Murad then spoke about the house, when the Hajji interposed, and said, "I think I now remember your father-in-law buying the house," and on Murad showing him the papers the Hajji exclaimed, "Oh, yes! I now also remember perfectly well being present when these papers were drawn up and signed. I will tell this to the Tribunal—come there again to-morrow." He did so, and obtained possession of the house without any further difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 162.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Consul R. Reade.

Sir, *Kustendji, June 12, 1878.*

SINCE last writing, the last of the 14th Corps has left for Bazardjik, and new regiments belonging to the 12th Corps are daily arriving, and after a short halt starting again in the direction of Varna.

The Russians are still very busy constructing batteries on the beach to command the harbour and roads. These batteries are evidently intended to mount howitzers for firing case-shot at any attempted landing in boats; but I think that any military or naval man, after one glance at the position and the conformation of land at Kustendji, would never dream of attempting a landing here, but would find it comparatively easy at Mangalia, where the land slopes gradually upwards from the beach, and could be swept by the artillery of the fleet covering the landing. The Russian war-steamer stationed here is out three times a week taking soundings and preparing anchorage for laying torpedoes in case of necessity.

Since peace rumours have been afloat, the influx of troops from Roumania and the work of construction of batteries and trenches has been incessant.

As regards utter contempt of the rights of property, the Russians proceed as if they were now at war. This manner of proceeding, and the universal destruction of private property, is so well known that it is almost superfluous to mention it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SANKEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 162.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, July 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the day before yesterday (the 4th instant) the railway trains recommenced running daily from this to Rustchuk, and *vice versâ*, each leaving at 5·26 A.M., and arriving at 3·30 P.M.

It appears that the Russians have required that the material of the line be taken from this to Rustchuk, and that the direction of the railway, which is here, be re-established there also.

Having learnt this, the Governor-General yesterday notified to the Railway Director that the direction and material must be left at Varna, where it has been ever since the Russian bombardment of Rustchuk compelled the direction to quit it; and that if his demand be complied with, he will allow the passenger trains to continue running freely.

The General Fazli Pasha had also objected to the material of the line being taken to Rustchuk, and was persuaded to allow the trains to run, on the understanding that the material was to remain where it was; but it appears that the Russian General at Rustchuk has been pressing the Director to bring it up to Rustchuk.

The step of the Vali being *en règle* is not to be wondered at, as the Russians, not requiring the line at present, can only wish to have the material within their line, so as to enable them, in case of resumption of hostilities, to convey their troops to Shumla and Varna.

His Excellency has reported this to Constantinople, and hopes that the Porte will approve and support him. I have also been requested to report it to your Excellency.

I have further the honour to report that the Russians from Bazardjik and Baltchik have of late made such communications to the Vali here that have induced him to reinforce the outworks of Varna. More men have been placed therein, and the ammunition supplies have been doubled.

From appearances, the Vali rather suspects a *coup de main*; but he has now taken such measures as he feels sure will thwart any such attempt.

On Wednesday last the Russian Governor of Baltchik came here to meet his wife, whom he expected from Constantinople.

No one here interfered with him, or even asked for his passport. Some hours after his arrival, however, he paid a visit to the Governor here, and, although unasked, he handed his passport to him. The Governor looked over it, and at the bottom perceived a large seal with "Governor of Varna" inscribed on it, and a Russian signature annexed.

The Governor placed the passport on his table, and, on the Russian asking for it, replied that, as he was not aware that there were two Governors of Varna, it was his duty to send the passport to the Porte, which he did by the last post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 162.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Kustendji, July 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that new fortifications have been commenced, besides those already reported, and that 10-inch siege guns and 8-inch howitzers have arrived at Tchernavoda, with carriages and ammunition complete. Strong forts are being thrown up along the coast at Baltchik, Caliakri, Mangalia, and other places, and both Medjidieh and Tchernavoda on the Danube have been fortified.

Preparations are going on for the reception of fresh troops now on the march from Toultcha.

The municipal authorities have entered into contracts for the repaving of the streets; hitherto the money collected for municipal purposes has been sent to Toultcha, and nothing spent upon the town.

Target-practice goes on morning and afternoon daily, and very unusual activity seems to prevail.

The few Turks who returned here after the war have sold most of their property at low prices, and are rapidly leaving.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. SANKEY.

No. 163.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 889.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Reade, forwarding a claim from Mr. Walker, a British subject, for rent and damage done to his house and magazines at Tchernavoda, forcibly occupied by the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 163.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, July 5, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency a despatch I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Sankey of Kustendji, inclosing the claim of Mr. James Walker, a British subject of that district, for rent and damage done to his house and magazines at Tchernavoda, forcibly occupied by the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 163.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Consul R. Reade.

Sir, *Kustendji, June 27, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to hand you inclosed a claim by Mr. James Walker against the Russian authorities.

The house and stores have been occupied by the Russians, and the rent claimed is what was usually paid for the same.

The claim being a matter for decision at head-quarters, Mr. Walker has requested me to forward it to you as there is no one here to whom I can apply. All the answer I ever got to such claims was "Droit de guerre."

Neither during nor since the war has one penny been paid to individuals for forcible occupation of their houses and stores. Only Bulgar houses have not been interfered with.

The Russians began by destroying houses that would have afforded good shelter for four times the number of men that have ever been stationed here, and then they turned people out of their houses to make way for their own people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SANKEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 163.

Mr. Walker to Vice-Consul Sankey.

Sir, *Kustendji, June 24, 1878.*

I BEG to lay before you the following facts:—

I am the owner of grain magazines and a house at Tchernavoda, both of which have been occupied by the Russian military authorities for the past twelve months, entirely without my permission, and to which, up to the present time, all access has been denied me.

I now claim for rent and damage done.

The grain magazines, which are constructed to hold 20,000 quarters, have been used principally as stables, and have suffered considerable damage, which I estimate at 400*l.*

The house has been occupied, the greater portion of the time, by General Zimmerman, the Commander-in-chief of the army of the Dobrudscha, and is also in a very bad state. I estimate the damage to amount to 300*l.*

The following is the total of my claim on the Russian Government, which I beg you to lay before the proper authorities, asking them at the same time to reinstate me in the possession of my property :—

Claim.

	£
Rent of magazines for one year to date	600
„ house	100
Estimated damage to magazines	400
„ house	300
	1,400

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. WALKER.

Received in the British Vice-Consulate at Kustendji and forwarded to Mr. Consul Reade.

Kustendji, June 24, 1878.

(L.S.) J. SANKEY, *Vice-Consul.*

No. 164.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 17.)

(No. 890.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, to your Lordship, translations of telegrams which I have received from the inhabitants of places affected by the territorial changes laid down in the Treaty of San Stefano, protesting against the annexation of their country, and complaining of the ill-treatment they have received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 164.

Telegram from the Inhabitants of the Sandjak of Serès.

(Traduction.)

A l'Ambassade Britannique.

NOUS apprenons que la Bulgarie, d'après la décision du Congrès, va être divisée en deux, et que l'on accordera l'autonomie à la partie qui s'appelle la Roumélie. Votre Excellence n'ignore pas qu'autant notre pays est éloigné de la Bulgarie, autant il est inséparable des côtes qui restent sous la juridiction immediate de notre Souverain. C'est pourquoi, ce qu'il faut pour nous, c'est une administration équitable sans que la base de notre sujétion soit altérée. Ainsi, de même que nous l'avons exposé précédemment, nous répétons encore que nous ne saurions accepter d'autre juridiction que celle de la Sublime Porte.

Le $\frac{11}{23}$ *Juin*, 1878.

(Signé) Les fondés de pouvoir des habitants du Sandjac de Serès.

Inclosure 2 in No. 164.

Telegram received by way of Castamouni.

(Traduction.)

Aux Délégués de l'Angleterre au Congrès par le canal de l'Ambassade de cette Puissance à Constantinople.

LES Soussignés se plaignent des cruautés et des violences Russes. Ils disent qu'après l'expérience qu'ils en ont eu soit à cause de leur proximité aux Russes, soit à la suite des derniers événements, ils ne sauraient se soumettre aux Russes, et qu'ils sont décidés de combattre jusqu'au dernier, en appelant à leur secours tous les Musulmans et Chrétiens de l'Asie Mineure. Ils prient d'être délivrés des Russes.

Le $\frac{23}{11}$ *Juin*, 1878.

(Suivent les signatures dont la provenance n'est pas désignée.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 164.

Telegram from Mostar.

(Traduction.)

A l'Ambassade Britannique.

AINSI qu'il est notoire, notre sortie de Nekshik n'eut lieu qu'après une longue résistance et à la suite d'un épuisement complet des moyens de défense, notre honneur militaire étant sauvegardé.

Attendu donc que les Grandes Puissances ne sauraient, après cela, admettre que notre pays soit abandonné à l'ennemi, et attendu qu'il serait contraire au droit des gens de ne faire aucun cas des sacrifices faits par les habitants pendant deux siècles, de permettre la spoliation de leurs droits et de nous laisser sans patrie, nous prions votre Excellence d'y appeler l'attention sérieuse du Congrès.

Le $\frac{12}{24}$ *Juin*, 1878.

(Signé) Les fondés de pouvoir des emigrés de Nekshik.

Inclosure 4 in No. 164.

Telegram by way of Castamouni.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Britannique à Constantinople et une copie aux Représentants de l'Angleterre au Congrès.

PAR plusieurs suppliques précédentes sous diverses dates nous avions exposé que nous ne saurions ni nous soumettre à la domination tyrannique de la Russie, ni quitter notre patrie et emigrer n'en ayant pas les moyens, et que, comme nous sommes reduits au point de complète annihilation, nous sollicitons aide et protection. Cet appel à la justice miséricordieuse de l'Europe avait fait naître chez nous l'espoir que notre pays serait mis à l'abri de tout danger.

Cependant, le document que nous venons de lire dans les journaux sous la rubrique de Convention entre le Marquis de Salisbury et le Comte Schouvaloff, contient un chapitre concernant Batoum, lequel est de nature, s'il est réel, d'exposer encore notre pays au danger que nous craignons. C'est dommage et grand dommage que tant de supplications ne furent pas prises en considération, et que 200,000 malheureux qui avaient invoqué la miséricorde de l'Europe, et qui étaient dignes de pitié n'en ont pas obtenu de quoi essuyer leurs larmes; désormais nous comprenons que pour nous sauver de cette anxieté, nous n'avons qu'à recourir aux armes et mourir jusqu'au dernier. A l'heure qu'il est, c'est le dernier soufle de vie que nous respirons, et nous ne saurions ne pas regretter nous-mêmes qu'un tel événement douloureux et regrettable ait lieu à une époque où l'Angleterre est arrivée à l'apogée du progrès et de la civilisation.

En attendant si, Dieu garde, le résultat des délibérations du Congrès qui s'est réuni pour faire justice, est que notre pays soit abandonné aux Russes, nous sommes décidés, ainsi que nous l'avons précédemment exposé en detail dans notre requête en date du 2 Juin, 1878, à l'adresse du Lord Beaconsfield et du Marquis de Salisbury,

d'opposer d'abord à l'attaque des Russes nos femmes et nos enfants, et lorsque nous les aurons vus tous transpercés de leurs lances, d'appeler à notre secours nos alliés de manière à ensanglanter non pas l'Anatolie seulement, mais beaucoup d'autres localités, et de mourir jusqu'au dernier en combattant les Russes.

Nous prions encore une fois que 200,000 âmes ne soient pas exposées aux coups de la Russie, et que l'on previenne une lutte qui est de nature à inonder de sang toute l'Anatolie.

Nous ajoutons que dans le cas que nous ne verrions pas l'effet de notre cri de détresse jusqu'à la fin du mois de Juin, nous saurions que nous n'avons plus rien à espérer et nous commencerions sérieusement le feu de l'attaque contre les Russes.

Le $\frac{24 \text{ Juin}}{6 \text{ Juillet}}$, 1878.

(Suivent les signatures des fondés de pouvoir des habitants.)

N.B.—La provenance n'est pas désignée, mais, d'après le contenu, il ressort que c'est Batoum.

No. 165.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 17.)

(No. 891.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of the Firman addressed by the Sultan to the authorities of Cyprus, commanding them to surrender the island to England.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 165.

Firman addressed to Sadik Pasha, Governor-General of the Turkish Archipelago, and Ahmet Pasha, Governor of Cyprus.

LE Gouvernement Britannique ayant demandé l'occupation provisoire de l'Ile de Chypre, la Sublime Porte a cru, en considération des rapports d'amitié qui existent entre les deux Gouvernements, devoir y accéder, et cela aux conditions suivantes contenues dans l'engagement rédigé à cet effet: il y aura dans l'île un Tribunal du Sheri, qui sera destiné exclusivement aux affaires civiles des Musulmans. Le Ministère de l'Evkaf désignera un Musulman de l'île, qui, conjointement avec un délégué nommé par le Gouvernement Anglais, aura soin des mosquées, cimetières, écoles, et autres établissements pieux des Musulmans. Le montant du revenu actuel, déduction faite des frais, sera payé annuellement à mon Trésor Impérial. Les domaines de la Couronne, et les terres vacouf, pourront être vendus ou affermé librement, et la valeur n'en sera pas comprise dans la susdite somme. Le Gouvernement Anglais de son côté sera libre d'acheter par ses agents les terrains dont il peut avoir besoin pour des travaux d'utilité publique et autres. Aux conditions ci-dessus il a été décidé en Conseil des Ministres et confirmé par mon Iradé Imperial de remettre l'administration provisoire de l'île aux délégués du Gouvernement Anglais. Vous êtes requis de vous y conformer en tout point.

No. 166.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 17.)

(No. 892.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a letter addressed to me by Her Majesty's Consul-General and Judge of the Supreme Court relating to the shocking treatment of the Mussulmans of Roumelia. Mr. Fawcett states that what he has written conveys but a faint idea of the horrors which have been and are being committed in the name of Christianity and civilization, but, in his opinion, with the object of exterminating, if possible, the Mahommedan population of the provinces claimed as Slav by Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 166.

Consul-General Fawcett to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, July* 9, 1878.

HAVING about a fortnight ago received trustworthy intelligence that many thousands of Mahommedan refugees were in extreme distress in the Rhodope Mountains, I laid the matter before the International Relief Society of which I am the President, who voted a credit of 500*l.* to which your Excellency kindly added a donation of another 500*l.* On this I dispatched Mr. Cullen, who is well known to your Excellency as a reliable person, with instructions to traverse the district as far as practicable in ten days, at the end of which time I would meet him in the Gumurdjini Caza with 900*l.* worth of rice and maize flour.

I gave him 100*l.* to relieve any extreme cases he might meet with. Shortly after his arrival I received a distressing telegram which I forwarded to your Excellency, stating that there were upwards of 50,000 emigrants in great destitution in Gumurdjini and that there was no maize in the country. The telegram also stated that he feared the refugees in the mountains (Gumurdjini being on the plain on the western side of the Rhodope) were in a far worse plight than even those in the Caza of Gumurdjini, but that he was starting to traverse the district as far as Arda and would meet me at Xanti on the day appointed. Accordingly, I started for Porto Lagos and met Mr. Cullen on the day named. He had suffered very great hardship both from hunger and bad weather, and he gave me the following dreadful details which I place before your Excellency.

His route is as follows:—

From Porto Lagos to Xanti. From Kanti along the base of the Rhodope Mountains to Gumurdjini, from thence over the hills to Kifkona, from this to Furfarlar, thence to Djuma, and so on to Kirligali, in the Valley of the Arda, where he penetrated to within three hours of the Russian outposts.

Turning to the left he went to Assamli; from there to Kinjeri, thence to Daridéré, and back by Schahindar to Xanti, where I met him.

In addition to the above places, Mr. Cullen visited about sixty small villages on his way.

It is difficult to recognize all these places on the maps, because they nearly all have Turkish and Pomak names, the latter, of course, being slave.

Mr. Cullen estimates the number of Mahommedan refugees at present in the Balkans at no less than 150,000 souls, of which he considers 70 per cent. be widows and orphans; and he states that the numbers are daily increasing in consequence of the burning of the villages on the plains by Bulgarians and Russian troops. He says at Yenidjé there were many refugees, but some of them were employed in the fields, and thus earning their livelihood.

At Yatzikeui many hundred refugees, some having Government aid, some employed in the fields. The road from this village to Gumurdjini is quite unsafe. At Gumurdjini upwards of 50,000 refugees are inscribed in the books of the Konak, besides some thousands not so inscribed, whom he found in the mountain, too exhausted to walk several hours to the town to get the miserable pittance which the Government doles out. Many of these were dying of typhoid fever and dysentery, and thousands were sleeping in the open streets of the town in an indescribible state of misery, filth, and disease. But if the condition of those in Gumurdjini was bad, he found that of the unhappy

wretches in the mountains was infinitely worse. Out of reach of help, thousands of women and children were dying a lingering death of famine. In one place alone he found 250 women and children, without a man amongst them. In more than one village he found women and girls, from 14 to 15 years of age, huddled together as naked as they were born, their wretched rags having entirely fallen off them.

To follow his route, at Kilkowa there was a vast number of refugees, in the whole district between there and Gumurdjini, in a very bad condition, only partly relieved by Government. Many of them quite naked. Food was more wanted there than in Gumurdjini. The further he went from that town the worse he found the condition of the refugees. He estimated the number of women and children in this district at 80 per cent. At Kirkagatch he found sixty refugees in an old khan in a dreadful state, many were ill, and some old and infirm. He contrived to get some maize and temporarily to relieve them. On the road he met hundreds of women and children, who, on inquiry, told him that they came from villages recently burnt and plundered by Bulgarians and Russian troops. Some of them said they had returned to their village at the request of the Russians, but they met with such ill-treatment they were obliged again to fly to the mountains.

At Tarfarlar and the villages near there were many refugees in a dreadful state. Some 300 women and children were in holes and caves in the rocks miserably dying of hunger. Mr. Cullen contrived to give them some small relief.

In twenty small villages near (names given by Mr. Cullen), he found a great many more in the same state. At Djuma he found many refugees, some of them in receipt of the aid from the Government.

At Kirkgali the number of refugees was greater than anywhere else, and their condition much worse. All of them were starving, and many of them actually naked.

This place is on the south side of the River Arda, and beyond the jurisdiction of the Turkish Government. Here, and in the district there are more than 10,000 refugees in a fearful state of destitution. There is no work for them, and no relief whatever. Many arrive daily from villages either plundered or burnt by the Russians and Bulgarians, and complain (to use Mr. Cullen's own words) "of the treatment they receive from these savages." He further says "that the constant accounts I receive of Russian and Bulgarian cruelty were almost beyond anything I have either heard of or seen in this dreadful war, although, as you know, I have seen much; and I can come to no other conclusion but that the Russians are carrying out a fixed policy of exterminating the Moslem race."

At Assarbey he found a few refugees, but along the Arda, on both banks, the numbers were very large and in the most deplorable condition.

In the district of Davidere he found 1,240 refugees, namely: at Albourna 320, at Soukessi 600, Yeridere 200, Tehardar 120. All of them were on the brink of death from starvation, and many of them absolutely naked. No assistance has been given to them by the Turkish Government whatever.

Mr. Cullen adds that the whole of this wretched people show that remarkable patience and resignation in circumstances of extreme misery which is such a characteristic of the Ottoman race. He further adds that the relief is more needed in the interior of the Rhodope Mountains than on the western slopes; that the matter is wholly beyond the reach of private charity, and that unless the Powers of Europe immediately step in to relieve this people, who are themselves innocent, they will die a lingering and miserable death of hunger.

This is the picture which Mr. Cullen, a gentleman in whom both your Excellency and myself have confidence, has given me of the present state of the Rhodope Balkans. In addition to this, Mr. Cullen has compiled from the best sources, namely, from the eye-witnesses, a list of villages burnt and plundered by Bulgarians and Russian troops in the Haskeui Caza since signing of the peace of San Stefano. He gives details of almost incredible cases of brutality and cruelty practised on this unfortunate people by so-called Christians, and by soldiers who are avowedly making war in the name of religion and liberty.

The names of these villages are all given, and against each is set a number of murdered people, in many instances with the details of diabolical cruelty of which they were the victims.

Appendix A is a list of villages of Haskeui Casa burnt and plundered by the Russians and Bulgarians since the signing of the Treaty of San Stefano.

B is the list of villages burnt and plundered by Russians on the 28th and 29th May last. Mr. Cullen adds that there have been in addition fifty-three houses burnt in the district of Dometica, of which he has not got as yet the details, and he challenges

examination by any unprejudiced inquiry as to the truth of the terrible sufferings which he has narrated.

I can only ask your Excellency to use the great influence you possess to put a stop, in the name of humanity, to horrors which, in my opinion, have scarcely ever been equal in the history of the world.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HENRY FAWCETT,
Consul-General and Judge.

APPENDIX (A.)

List of Villages burnt and plundered by Bulgarians and Russian troops in the District of Haskeui since the signing of the Treaty of San Stefano.

Idemush. Partly burnt. 2 people murdered.
Yuresgulek. Partly burnt. 3 people murdered.
Rochuslee. Entirely burnt. 4 people murdered.
Tatakui. Entirely burnt. 18 people murdered. Girls and women all violated and one carried away.
Horoslar. Entirely burnt. 12 people murdered.
Clescher. Entirely burnt. 5 people murdered. Women and girls violated.
Allan Mahalah. Entirely burnt. 1 person murdered.
Shiperlee. Entirely burnt. 2 persons murdered. 3 old women (widows) burnt alive.
Kumurgee. Burnt. Many murdered; number unknown.
Kisserkui. Burnt. Many murdered; number unknown.
Karakjaein. Burnt. Many murdered; number unknown.
Cumbular. Burnt. 2 women murdered, one of them blind.
Karamanlar. Burnt. 2 old men murdered.
Fourdourjak. 1 old woman burnt alive.
Dourakui. Burnt. Many murdered; number unknown.
Sheremetter. Burnt. 1 old woman burnt alive.
Gabrova. Burnt. 50 people murdered; 1 old man stoned to death by Bulgarian women.
Mollah Moussabah. Burnt. 1 old woman of Plevna murdered for her money.
Rushhatlider. Of 250 houses only 13 remain. Many women violated; 40 girls carried off; one lame girl, aged seventeen, was tied hands and feet and was outraged by Cossacks till she died.
Karatlar. Half burnt. Many murdered; number unknown.
Kiretchtarler. Burnt. Many murdered; number unknown.
Koken-karrieh. Burnt, 5th May. Many murdered; number unknown.

APPENDIX (B.)

List of Villages burnt and plundered by the Bulgarians and Russian troops in the Philippopolis District, on the 28th and 29th May, 1878.

Softisehu. Burnt. Number murdered uncertain.
Bagutova. Burnt. One old man crucified and burnt alive; all women and girls violated.
Dranova. Burnt. Number murdered uncertain.
Cunkurkui. Burnt. Number murdered uncertain.
Borova. Burnt. Number murdered uncertain.
Belitza. Burnt. Number murdered uncertain.
Yerkenpresé. Burnt. Number murdered uncertain.
Orstritza. Burnt. Number murdered uncertain.
Hardeovo. Burnt. Number murdered uncertain.
Lukovitza. Burnt. Number murdered unknown; one woman burnt alive.
Lebourmahale. Burnt. Number murdered unknown.
Yundusmahale. Burnt. Number murdered unknown.

N.B.—In all the above villages many women and girls were violated and numbers carried off.

In the Damotica district fifty-three villages have been burnt and plundered by the Bulgarians and Russians during the last two months. Names and details not yet to hand.

No. 167.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 894.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Gallipoli, reporting the commencement of reprisals on the part of the Mahommedans against the Christians at Charkeui.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 167.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Gallipoli, le 6 Juillet, 1878.*

Il me revient, de bonne source, que les habitants des villages Turcs qui se trouvent près de Charkeuï et compris dans la ligne de démarcation des postes Turcs, ont commencé à tuer les rayas qui, par accident, passent dans le voisinage de leurs villages. J'en ai parlé au Gouverneur Rechad Pacha, qui a immédiatement envoyé un Chef de Police avec quelques zaptiés pour empêcher ces meurtres.

Je vois là un commencement de représailles qui prendra une grande extension dès que les troupes Russes quitteront le pays actuellement occupé par elles, et principalement dans les Cazas de Charkeuï et Kessan, du Sandjak de Gallipoli, et dans les Cazas de Airaboli et Mulgara, du Sandjak de Rodosto.

Etant admis que la majeure partie des réfugiés se compose d'une classe tout-à-fait ignorante et grossière et n'ayant d'autres principes qu'un instinct naturel, on ne doit pas s'étonner de les entendre, dès maintenant, se proposer des actes de vengeance contre les rayas qui ont détruit leurs villages, massacré leurs confrères, violé leurs femmes, &c.

Plusieurs, parmi les refugiés, m'ont personnellement dit que la présence du Sultan lui-même ne les empêcherait pas de mettre à mort les chefs parmi les rayas qui ont commis tant de cruautés envers les Turcs. Je les ai exhortés à s'abstenir de tout acte de vengeance en leur assurant que justice leur sera rendu, et en leur faisant entendre que si les rayas ont commis des atrocités contre les Turcs ils ne l'ont fait, peut-être, que sous l'impulsion des Russes et des Cosaques, qui, sachant bien qu'ils ne pourront pas rester en Roumélie, ont voulu semer un germe de haine entre Musulmans et rayas dans le seul but de provoquer des nouveaux massacres pour pouvoir ensuite justifier envers l'Europe leur conduite pleine de ruses et de fraudes pour arriver à l'anéantissement de l'élément Turc en Europe.

Il y en a qui approuvent ce que je leur dis, mais ce n'est pas chose facile de faire entendre raison à tous ces gens, et je suis persuadé que le retour des réfugiés sera suivi de faits très-regrettables.

S'il m'est permis d'exprimer une opinion, je dirai que l'on pourrait cependant éviter l'effusion du sang en prenant des mesures, qui ne présentent pas des grandes difficultés, du moins pour ce qui concerne les Sandjaks de Gallipoli et Rodosto.

A mon avis il faudrait, avant tout, envoyer des Caïmmeaux bien connus pour leur impartialité et leur sévérité, dans tous les chefs-lieux, en les faisant accompagner par quelques détachements de cavalerie régulière (pas de zaptiés à cheval) qui pourraient accourir dans tous les endroits où le besoin se ferait sentir; et, en second lieu, que le Gouvernement empêche le retour en masse des réfugiés, et ne les laisse retourner que peu à peu, de sorte qu'ils ne soient pas assez nombreux, dès leur retour, pour attaquer les rayas, et faire face à l'autorité; et que l'on donne le temps pour qu'ils puissent se concilier peu à peu avec les rayas. Ces derniers, dès que les Russes seront partis, deviendront comme des moutons envers les Turcs, car, pour le moment, ils conservent encore un certain esprit de servilité envers tout ce qui est Musulman, et il n'y aurait pas à craindre des troubles de leur part. C'est surtout dans les Cazas de Kessan et de Airaboli qu'il y aura à craindre des représailles, car les Chrétiens y ont été inexorables envers les Turcs.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) A. ODONI.

No. 168.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 895.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches, with their inclosures, which I have received from Mr. Consul Blunt at Larissa, forwarding Reports upon the state of the country from Colonel Synge, Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, and Mr. Longworth.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 168.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, July 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Excellency, a Report which Colonel Synge has drawn up at my request upon the present state of the Pashalic of Salonica, in which he has been recently travelling.

Colonel Synge's account fully contains the information which I receive from other sources on the growing disquietude and unsatisfactory condition of Macedonia.

I have called the attention of the authorities of Larissa to what Colonel Synge reports relative to the cattle disease raging in the Salonica districts contiguous to Thessaly, with a view to their taking precautionary measures against its importation here, where, I am happy to say, up to this time there is no symptom of its existence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 168.

Colonel Synge to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Larissa, June 30, 1878.*

IN accordance with your request, I beg to forward you the following notes on the state of the Pashalik of Salonica, in which I have recently been travelling:—

State of the Country.—Most undoubtedly an unsettled state reigns throughout the province; trade is suspended, and the roads rendered insecure through the numerous bands of brigands which infest them, and who with impunity carry off and rob any one who may be sufficiently rich to make it worth their trouble. Villages are terrorized and requisitioned for sums fixed by the robbers according to the wealth of the community.

Large numbers of deserters from Albania, and the unsettled state of that province, are the chief causes of this state of affairs in the western portion of Macedonia, whilst an insufficient and ill-paid police force renders the authorities powerless to cope with an evil which is every day increasing.

Taxation.—The constant calls on the population for taxes in one shape or another, to assist the Government in the heavy burden which the existing state of affairs entails upon it, dishearten the peasantry, in addition to which the cattle disease, which is raging through the province, and in many cases destroyed the means by which the peasant tills the soil and earns his living, has been allowed to commit its ravages without any preventive measures being taken. This must be borne in mind as a factor in future events, as large numbers of the peasant population are deprived of their only wealth and of the means of tilling the soil, and fall an easier prey to the agitator and disturber of the peace. The proprietors in the unsettled state of the country are unable and unwilling to advance money to the peasantry to purchase new stock, even should the necessary quantity of cattle be forthcoming, which, from the widespread of the disease through the European provinces, I fear will not be the case.

Tithes.—The collection, or, rather, non-collection, of the tithes during the past year is the cause of much dissatisfaction.

The Government undertook the collection of the tithe itself, but having once written against the peasant the amount of grain he had to pay, it was left on his hands in most parts of the province, and he could neither consume it nor dispose of it. The houses of the peasantry are ill-adapted for the storing of grain, and poultry, vermin,

&c., make havoc of it, whilst, if not forthcoming, it will be charged for at the highest market price; and now, with the new harvest coming in, the last year's tithe remains uncollected.

In some cases the tithe of grain was consumed by the troops, and a portion of it was collected by the authorities, but much still remains in the villages, which must either entail a considerable loss on the Government, or a gross injustice to the peasant.

Feelings of the People.—The feelings of the people of every class and denomination are such that, from whatever source a good Government might be vouchsafed to them, they would accept it eagerly. The population of the portion of the province implicated in the recent insurrection nourish hopes which have been aroused by an untrustworthy press and by political agitators, and who, finding that these hopes are illusory, may be guilty of any acts of insubordination and folly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SYNGE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 168.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, July* 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a Report, dated yesterday, from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, regarding the manner in which the Ottoman authorities at this place are carrying out the directions of the Porte for the pacification of Thessaly. I also inclose a copy of a Report from Mr. Longworth, dated Armyro, the 24th ultimo, furnishing some particulars upon the same subject from that quarter. Mr. Longworth will shortly visit the districts of Pharsala (Tchataldja) and Domoco, to acquire corresponding information in those localities.

Colonel Synge will leave this to-morrow to visit the districts of Carditza, Trikala, and Allassona, with instructions from me, of which I inclose a copy, to report on the conduct of the authorities regarding the execution of the amnesty.

I have made inquiries, and satisfied myself that there are four Christian and twelve Mahommedan subjects of the Porte undergoing sentence of the local court-martial for guilty implication in the late insurrection. The excuse the military authorities here give me for not liberating them is that, their cases having been referred to the War Office at Constantinople, no further step can be taken with regard to them without its sanction; and in consequence I telegraphed this morning to your Excellency as follows:—

"Please ask Porte to telegraph to military authorities here to release from prison any person undergoing sentence of local court-martial for implication in late insurrection, for I find that several are so situated."

Having heard that outrages had been perpetrated in the district of Agia (Yenidjeh), Colonel Synge, at my request, proceeded thither to make inquiries thereupon, and I have the honour to transmit his Report on the subject, in which he has also embodied his observations on the execution of the amnesty.

I beg leave to invite your Excellency's attention to what Mr. Suter states in his Report in regard to the interpretation of the condition involving the remission of one year's taxes to the inhabitants whose houses were burned during the late troubles.

The Porte, I respectfully venture to suggest, should send explicit instructions on the subject to the Governor-General of Janina; and it was with the view to the strict execution of that condition that I telegraphed to your Excellency as follows from Pharsala (Tchataldja), on the 13th ultimo:—

"Porte should instruct by telegraph Governor-General of Epirus and Thessaly to carry out strictly the condition regarding one year's remission of taxes to burnt Christian and Turkish villages and farms, and that this condition includes every description of taxes."

On the whole the Ottoman authorities continue to do their best to carry out faithfully the promises of the Porte for the pacification of the province, and it is a subject of general satisfaction that they are steadily and efficiently carrying out measures to recover the cattle and other property which were stolen during the late events and restore them to their proper owners.

A Mixed Commission, composed of two Mahommedan and two Christian members, has been appointed here, and in all the district towns of the province, for the purpose

of assisting the villagers in each district to recover their property without having resort to the local Courts.

The Commission at Larissa is constituted as follows:—

Ghiorghi Franghidi, President, Christian.
Ali Pasha Agha, Member, Mahommedan.
Ferid Effendi, Member, Mahommedan.
Anastas Patchouni, Member, Christian.
Thanass Bakaloyanni, Member, Christian.

The Commission has been sitting one month, and during this period it has recovered and restored to the Christian villagers the following head of cattle:—144 buffaloes, 71 buffalo calves, 265 cows, and 213 calves, 315 bullocks, 13 mules, 13 mares, 4 colts, 1 donkey, 127 sheep, and 36 lambs.

In the district of Carditza also the Mixed Commission has been very successful in the recovery of stolen cattle. It has found and returned to the village of Mafaranga all the cattle that was carried off by the other villages in its vicinity, and the large village or estate of Soludes, in the same district, has already recovered, through the assistance of the Commissions at Larissa and Carditza, no less than 502 head of cattle out of 800 that were missing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 168.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Larissa, July* 1, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Turkish authorities have been endeavouring to carry out the conditions of the amnesty granted by the Porte for the pacification of Thessaly in a moderate and conciliatory spirit.

All Ottoman and foreign subjects implicated in the late insurrection who have been imprisoned or detained, were, as I duly informed you, long since released, with the exception, I believe, of three Christian and four Mahommedan subjects of the Porte, who were convicted by court-martial before the proclamation of the amnesty, and cannot be liberated without special instructions from the War Office.

The recovery and restitution of the cattle and flocks stolen during the movement have been actively going on in all directions, and, if is hoped, will ere long be satisfactorily completed.

Most of the refugees who had quitted the country, have been, and continue, gradually returning to their homes. Some, especially of those inhabiting the districts in the immediate vicinity of the border, under the exercise of Hellenic influences, hold back for the present, and several of the insurgent bands, chiefly composed of strangers, which were acting in the districts under Mount Olympus, still linger there, and refuse to disperse until the decision becomes known upon the demands submitted to the Berlin Congress on behalf of Greece.

You are aware that all the Bashi-Bazouks were long since withdrawn from this province, the last portion of them being embarked from Volo while you were there.

I do not learn that any action has yet been taken in the question of disarming the Christian and Mahommedan population; nor do I think it probable that, under present circumstances, and with the prevalence of brigandage throughout the country, it could be attempted.

With regard to the remission of taxes, the strict interpretation of which applies to the villagers whose dwellings were burnt, I beg to report that it does not seem to be liberally acted upon, inasmuch as that no remission is granted to villagers whose houses, although not burned, have suffered severely in other respects, such as pillage and damage by insurgents and Bashi-Bazouks, and that the levy of taxes is being enforced from the latter category in some districts.

There are eight battalions of Turkish infantry, and two regiments of cavalry and five batteries of artillery encamped outside of this town, of whose conduct no complaints whatever can be made. We are told, however, that in the village of Rapsani the major commanding has misconducted himself on several occasions; and

representations being made, Rejéb Pasha has ordered him to be brought here for trial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SUTER.

Inclosure 5 in No. 168.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Armyro, June* 24, 1878.

YOU desire to know whether the following promises of the Porte for the pacification of this province are being carried out here by the local authorities.

1. A general and unconditional amnesty, which, although publicly proclaimed and cordially extended by the authorities of Armyro: is, to all intents and purposes, rejected by the insurgents as an amnesty, and accepted only as an armistice, or a mere cessation of hostilities until the end of the Congress.

2. Removal of irregulars or Bashi-Bazouks from the province: was carried into effect in this district previous to my arrival at Armyro.

3. Strict prohibition to Mahommedans and Christians in late insurgent districts to carry arms: is a measure which is not enforced, neither on the one nor on the other, owing to the present state of public insecurity from numerous bands of brigands.

4. Release of all prisoners, whether Ottoman or Hellenic subjects, who were directly or indirectly implicated in the insurrection: is a promise which does not affect the authorities of Armyro, as political prisoners are not retained in district towns, but are sent at once to Larissa.

5. Remission of one year's taxes to the inhabitants of the Christian and Turkish villages, the houses of whom may have been destroyed during the insurrection: is an exemption which the local authorities are following out in a manner most exemplary, although they find themselves at present in great financial difficulties.

6. Turkish and Greek Governments to give all proper facilities for recovery and restitution of stolen cattle and other property to their owners: this the authorities have not had the occasion to do, as no applicant had come forward yet demanding such assistance. The fact is, the principal losses sustained in this district consist of sheep and cattle seized and killed for consumption during the insurrection.

The Turkish authorities of Armyro, I should not omit to state, appear to understand thoroughly the necessity of faithfully carrying out the conditions of the amnesty, and the importance of conciliating the Christian inhabitants; and, what is more, they show great care and activity in the discharge of their difficult duties.

In concluding, I should add that the seven battalions of infantry stationed here, composed of 3,000 men, under the Major-Generalship of Iskender Pasha, are conducting themselves admirably well, though they are in a most deplorable condition. Owing to their arrears in pay, the practice of going out to reap has become quite general amongst them. They thus earn for their little wants no less than 12 piastres a day, which they are tacitly allowed to do, as long as it does not interfere with their military duties.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 6 in No. 168.

Consul Blunt to Colonel Synge.

Sir, *Larissa, July* 1, 1878.

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople having authorized me to avail myself of your services in Thessaly for a few weeks, I have to request that you will be good enough to proceed to the districts of Carditza, Trikala, and Allassona, for the purpose of inquiring and reporting to me, for the information of his Excellency, if the promises of the Porte for the pacification of those parts of Thessaly are carried out by the local authorities.

These promises consist of—

1. General and unconditional amnesty.

2. Release of all persons, whether Ottoman or Hellenic subjects, who were directly or indirectly implicated in the insurrection.

3. Removal of all irregulars or Bashi-Bazouks from the province.

4. Strict prohibition to Mahommedans and Christians in late insurgent districts to carry arms.

5. Remission of one year's taxes to the inhabitants of Christian or Turkish villages whose houses have been destroyed during late events.

6. Turkish and Greek Governments to give every facility for recovery and restitution of stolen cattle and other property to their proper owners.

You will endeavour to learn what number of refugees have returned to their homes in the villages of the districts you are about to visit, as well as what measures are taken by the local authorities for the protection and tranquillity of these refugees.

In your communications with the Ottoman authorities you should impress upon them the necessity of faithfully executing the promises of the Porte for the pacification of this province, and the importance of trying to conciliate the Christian inhabitants in this and other respects.

I shall be glad to have from you any information you may procure as to the relative numbers of the Mahommedan and Christian populations of the districts you are about to visit, and as to their political sympathies and their feelings towards the Turkish Government.

I inclose letters of introduction for you to the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 168.

Colonel Synge to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Agia, June* 29, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in accordance with your instructions, I visited Agia and its neighbourhood, and inquired into the outrages that have recently taken place there.

On the 9th instant a band of brigands, a little after noon, entered the Dere Convent, situated in a remote and isolated position, and finding only two nuns there, tortured one in a most barbarous manner, with a view to extracting money.

The band consisted of from fifteen to twenty men, and was composed of Greeks and Albanians, those two languages being employed.

The brigands had furnished themselves with candles, with which they burned the unfortunate woman in a most barbarous manner.

The nun's statement was corroborated by the doctor who attended her.

The brigands inquired: "Where are the 70,000 piastres of the Egoumenos?"

One of them was dressed in green, with black cap and chin-strap, the others in fustanellas and otherwise.

On the night of the 22nd instant, or morning of the 23rd, the Egoumenos, a lay intendant or steward of the above convent, who, through fear, had quitted it, and was residing in Agia, was murdered with great barbarity, his reputed wealth, no doubt, having attracted some of the numerous robber-confederations.

The town is protected by troops, whose outposts surround it, and is patrolled constantly by night; its inhabitants are ordered to remain in their houses after dark, and every possible precaution taken.

This outrage was, without doubt, perpetrated by or with the connivance of some of the townspeople.

A band of Albanian brigands infest this neighbourhood, and are its dread and terror.

Not long ago twelve Albanian zaptiehs deserted with their arms, and being reinforced by other bad characters, and probably having communication with the town through their comrades who remained, and through the Albanian forest guards, they form a very formidable band.

The officer commanding the troops at Agia, Ashu Bey, recently called the attention of the authorities to the ill-regulated force of zaptiehs then at Agia, and they were changed.

The officer commanding the troops evidently does everything in his power to maintain peace and order in his district, as well as a good feeling with the townspeople.

Nothing could exceed the orderly and well-regulated behaviour of the troops; the townspeople dread their withdrawal, and are on the best possible terms with them,

even the small children in the street playing with them, and being allowed to blow their trumpets, &c. The country people are employed with their harvest labours and other rural occupations, and at the weekly bazaar the Mussulman and Christian peasantry meet and mingle.

I was informed that one Stephano Mulargis, of Thanatu village, and employed at the Theologo Monastery, who was charged with carrying arms for the insurgents on his mules from the sea to the monastery, is still retained in prison at Larissa, contrary to the provisions of the amnesty.

The clause of the amnesty regarding stolen cattle appears to be carried out; 144 sheep, 6 donkeys, and 5 mules have been recovered and restored to their owners.

In this place, as in the other districts, a Mixed Commission of two Christians and two Mussulmans is sitting for the purpose of carrying out this clause.

In this district there is nothing regarding the other clauses of the amnesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SYNGE.

No. 169.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 23. Political.)
My Lord, *Adrianople, June 30, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador relative to Bulgarian outrages upon Protestants at Kayali-deré, and upon Greeks at Kavakli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure in No. 169.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, June 30, 1878.*

WITH reference to the outrages upon the Bulgarian Protestants at Kayali-deré, which form the subject of Mr. Acting Consul F. Calvert's despatch to your Excellency of the 28th instant, I have the honour to state that I learn on inquiry that information regarding the occurrences in question was brought to the Protestant community of this town, soon after they took place, by one of the sufferers. Neither this person, however, nor the community here, communicated with me on the subject then or since. The complainant, I am informed, on his arrival, addressed a petition on the subject through the head of the Protestant community here to the local Russian authorities. These referred him, in reply, to the authorities at Yamboli, under whose jurisdiction, they said, Kayali-deré was placed. The man thereupon sought redress at Yamboli, and afterwards at Shimnia, but at both those places the authorities declared that the village in question was under Adrianople. He then came back here on the 27th instant, but found that the Governor had just left for San Stefano. On the same day the Rev. Mr. Locke, American missionary, arrived here from Samakov, with part of the persecuted Protestants, and having ascertained that Kayali-deré is within the jurisdiction of Philippopolis, he left for that place at once, in order to lay the matter before Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff. As Mr. Locke did not call upon me when here, it was only to-day that I first heard of the circumstances, through the Constantinople newspapers, and through Mr. F. Calvert's Report.

The occurrences took place, I am told, sixteen days ago. Kayali-deré is twelve hours distant from Adrianople and eight from Yamboli. I learn from Greek sources that, about the same time, the Bulgarian Bishop of Shimnia, who incited his co-religionists to commit the outrages in question, visited also the village of Kavakli, situated about three hours of Kayali-deré, and inhabited chiefly by Greeks. He caused the priests who were officiating in the church to be expelled, and mass to be celebrated by the Bulgarian priests who accompanied him. It was the feast of Pentecost. A mob of Bulgarians whom the Bishop brought in his train conducted themselves in a disorderly manner, beating an old Greek monk on the pretext that he did not show due respect to his

Eminence, and riding in on horseback among some girls who were dancing, in consequence of which one of them had her ancle broken.

Whilst the Greek Archbishop here is not unnaturally indignant at these proceedings, it is but right to recall the fact that it was his Eminence who set the example of intolerance and persecution in that part of the country when he had the power. In the early part of last year, when the Orthodox Bulgarian inhabitants of the first-mentioned village of Kayali-deré acknowledged the Greek Patriarchate (they have seceded to the Exarchate since the arrival of the Russians), a woman belonging to the Orthodox community, who had married one of the Protestants there, was forcibly separated from her husband by order of the Archbishop. The man petitioned the Turkish authorities on the subject, and endeavoured by personal entreaties to induce the Archbishop to relent, but his Eminence dismissed his prayer with contempt and ridicule. Eventually, through the exercise of his spiritual influence, the Archbishop persuaded the woman to give up her Protestant husband and to marry an Orthodox member of his flock.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 170.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 24. Political.)
My Lord, *Adrianople, July 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 10th June the insurgent Chief Djanavarli made pacific overtures to the Russian officer in command at Ortakioï, with a view to obtaining permission for the inhabitants of the destroyed Turkish villages, who had taken refuge with the insurgents, to harvest their crops. These overtures were rejected, but the Russians appear to have acquiesced for the time being in the retention of the places recovered by the insurgents during their repulse of the general Russian assault towards the end of May.

Thus the insurgents in these parts are, at least for the present, tacitly allowed to maintain the positions occupied by them at the first outbreak of the movement; that is to say, all the country to the west of Ortakioï and Hidja.

As regards the parts near Hasskioï, reinforcements were despatched from Adrianople on the 16th and 18th ultimo in consequence of a threatened attack in that quarter, but, so far as I am aware, no actual hostilities have taken place there.

I am assured that, during the engagements which followed the late general attack, about a month ago, a body of insurgents, making a sudden descent from the hills above Hasskioï, surprised and cut in pieces a Russian detachment of ninety men near Yenidjeli, between Hebibtché and Harmanli. As I have this statement from a Turkish source, I repeat it under reserve. Its circumstantiality seems to place it above the category of a vague rumour, but it is difficult to say whether the improbableness of the scene of the alleged event detracts from, or adds to, its credibility. If true, it would account for the rumours which prevailed at that time of a Russian disaster in the neighbourhood of Hasskioï.

I may here offer a few general remarks on the movement in the Rhodope. In my despatch of the 16th April, reporting the first breaking out of hostilities, I had the honour to point out that the character of the movement was defensive only. That character has been maintained, and with success, up to the present time, the mountaineers taking to arms only when attacked. It was for that reason that I described the movement as a "guerilla" one, and only adopted the term "insurrection" when the Mussulman combatants formally declined to obey the mandates of the Porte. The term "Pomak insurrection," adopted by some of the London journals is, in a rough sense, ethnologically correct as far as regards the hills above Fatin-Bazardjik and Philippopolis and the district of Akhy-Tchelebi, where the Mahommedan population belongs almost wholly to the Bulgarian race. The Mussulman inhabitants of the country further to the eastward and to the south of Hasskioï are, however, exclusively Turks. The connection between these two categories of insurgents is closer than that between the latter and the Turkish insurgents on the right bank of the Arda, or between these last and those still further to the south, where again the Pomak element predominates. These last-mentioned Pomaks, who inhabit the parts about the Sitchandjik Mountain (or "Kodja Yaïlà"), although they have taken up arms, have been comparatively but little engaged,

and for this reason, that the Christian element in those parts is numerically weak and has found it prudent not to molest their Mussulman neighbours.

As regards the treatment by the Mussulmans of the Christian population within the insurgent districts, I am able to adduce convincing testimony that it is of the same favourable character south of the Arda as in the parts further north, as recently published by Mr. Acting Vice-Consul F. Calvert, of Philippopolis. Wherever instances in seeming contradiction to this friendly spirit have occurred they are ascribable to retaliation for specific injuries received. This fact has been admitted to me by a Greek gentleman of fair and unbiassed views, in reference to the village of Plavon, where the victorious insurgents massacred all the inhabitants they found there, to the number of eighteen. I was unable to elicit from this informant anything further than the general statement that the Greeks of Plavon had brought it on themselves. I have, however, since been told by a foreign resident here that a Russian officer, who was at Plavon previous to its capture by the insurgents, expressed to him the indignation he felt at seeing there the bodies of inoffensive Turkish villagers who had been slaughtered, without provocation, by the Greeks. This, then, no doubt, was the act which provoked the bloody deeds perpetrated by the insurgents at that particular spot. That such deeds on the part of the insurgents are not of a general or indiscriminate character has been expressly attested by some Greeks from Beshtepeh, a village within the insurgent lines, and two hours beyond Ortakioï. These men have been allowed to bring to Adrianople, as usual, charcoal for sale. One of them told a foreign resident here, who was dealing with him, that they are perfectly well treated by the insurgents, and that these tell them that they and the inhabitants of the other Christian villages in those parts who have behaved well have nothing to fear. The insurgents added, however, that as regards the people of the neighbouring Greek villages Ortakioï, Akalan, Arnoutkioï, and Plavon, they would take every possible opportunity of punishing them for the massacres and outrages to which they had subjected the Mussulmans who fell into their power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 171.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 72. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, July 2, 1878.*

I HAD the honour to receive yesterday from Mr. Secretary Cross two telegrams.

The first required me to ascertain and to report by telegraph whether orders had been received by Lord John Hay, which had been sent to him on Friday evening, the 28th ultimo, and had been repeated again on the evening of the 30th, addressed British Admiral, Suda Bay, Crete.

To this I replied last night thus:—"Lord John Hay received orders yesterday, and they were repeated to-day. His Lordship left to-day."

The second telegram stated that the following telegram, sent from the Superintendent in Crete, had been communicated to the Foreign Office by the Eastern Telegraph Company:—

"*Friday Afternoon.*—The Turkish Admiral has insisted upon foreign ships of war leaving the ancient (port?) in front of Canea. From Rethymo arrive alarming news. Irregularities (are going on?), menacing inhabitants, and the Consuls have petitioned that European ships of war be dispatched thither as a means of protection."

To this I replied:—"The report that the Turkish Admiral had insisted upon foreign ships of war leaving the harbour before Canea is untrue. At Rethymo the Christians are threatened by the Mussulmans, and one of Her Majesty's ships has gone there."

The captain of the French gun-vessel "Bisson," now lying in this harbour, told me that the Chancelier of the French Consulate had told him that the Governor-General's Secretary had assured him that Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay had promised the Turkish Admiral to withdraw Her Majesty's ship "Defence" from before Canea, and on the strength of that promise he hoped that the French vessel would also leave. This is the only foundation for the part of the telegram on this subject transmitted by the Superintendent here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 172.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 73. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, July 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that part of the squadron under the command of Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay, consisting of the flag-ship "Minotaur" and "Monarch," left its anchorage in Suda Bay at noon on the 1st instant for an unknown destination. Passing by Rethymo they were joined by Her Majesty's ship "Black Prince," which had been detached there on special service, and on the arrival of "Foxhound" on the 3rd from Syra, she also followed the departing squadron. The ironclad "Defence" and gun-vessel "Coquette" are lying in Suda Bay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 173.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 74. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, July 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have written to his Excellency Sir A. H. Layard on the state of affairs at Rethymo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Enclosure in No. 173.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, July 8, 1878.*

WHEN I had the honour to address to your Excellency my despatch of the 30th ultimo, I reported the departure on that day of Her Majesty's ship "Black Prince" for Rethymo. On the 1st instant Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay received instructions which necessitated the departure of his squadron from Crete, with the exception of Her Majesty's ships "Defence" and "Coquette," and he went down to Rethymo to pick up "Black Prince," ordering "Coquette," then moored in Canea Harbour, to take up its station before Rethymo. Meanwhile, the Turkish Admiral commanding in the Archipelago, who had gone down to Rethymo with the new Commander-in-chief, Ali Haidar Pasha, had sent a deputation to parley with the Moslem malcontents outside the walls of the town. To this deputation they set forth their grievances and the proposed remedies, such as I had the honour to expose in my despatch of the 30th ultimo, but this time unaccompanied by any threats. M. Calucci, the Acting Consular Agent at Rethymo, in the place of Mr. Triffili (who has gone on a short leave of absence for the benefit of his health), informs me that the malcontents were induced to disperse on a promise being given them that their petition should be forwarded without delay to Constantinople, and that a favourable answer would be returned within ten days. A promise was further made that no one should be molested for the part he had taken in these proceedings. Soon afterwards Admiral Hussein Pasha and the Commander-in-chief returned here with the two Turkish men-of-war, and the same day, the 3rd instant, the gun-vessel "Coquette" came back in accordance with the orders left by the Vice-Admiral.

Essaad Boy, the Mutessarif of Rethymo, has since had a personal interview with the Vali, to whom he expressed the opinion that the entire movement had been got up by five or six designing men affiliated with the clique which has had so evil an influence on affairs in Canea, and that could he but arrest them, the rest would be intimidated. But, after the promises made in the name of the superior military and naval authorities that they should not be molested, no such act of rigour can now be resorted to.

The acting Consular Agent at Rethymo seems to think that if the demands of the Mussulmans are not complied with, they will proceed to commit some desperate deeds. Without endorsing this opinion, it is certain that there is a general relaxation of authority, the police are unpaid, dissatisfied, and their numbers much diminished by desertion, while the new Commander-in-chief, though a well-intentioned man, seems confused by the conflict of opinion dividing not only the military and civil authorities but society itself, and hence is undecided in his views. The Mutessarif of Rethymo having telegraphed to his Excellency the Vali that the disbanded Mussulmans are molesting the peaceable Christian villages within the cordon, I requested Captain Cator, commanding Her Majesty's ship "Defence," to dispatch "Coquette" a second time to Rethymo, and she left for that anchorage the day before yesterday.

In looking back on the popular outbursts of Mussulman discontent, both here and at Rethymo, it seems to me that they are a good deal due to jealousy and vexation at being governed by a Vali who refuses to be the tool of the clique of unscrupulous intriguers, to whose will every Governor-General appointed since 1868 has seen himself obliged to bend. The present Mutessarif of Rethymo was appointed to his post by Costaki Pasha, and has made a manful stand against the local Aghas arrayed against him, to whom all his predecessors, however well-intentioned, had, one after another, succumbed. The dismissal of several minor employés appointed by his Excellency the Governor-General, who have done their duty in these difficult times without respect of persons, has also been demanded, and should their demands be yielded to, the fomenters of the movement count upon the Vali himself giving in his resignation. They have hitherto found it so easy to get rid of any functionary not to their taste, that they are naturally indignant at seeing a check put to their power, and that too by a Christian Governor.

With reference to the alleged massacre of women and children during the recent fighting in Apokorono, I have seen several women from the ruined villages whose declarations leave little doubt as to the reality of the cruelty practised there. The battalion guilty of these barbarous acts has been removed to another part of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—His Excellency Salih Pasha, the late Commander-in-chief, returns to Constantinople by to-day's steamer.

T. B. S.

No. 174.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 53. Political.)
Galatz, July 8, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 52, Political, of the 29th ultimo, on the subject of the Russian military movements, I have the honour to report that Mr. Vice-Consul Morphy informs me that the Russian infantry (3,000) and one battery of light field artillery, which arrived at Ibraïla on the 26th instant from Jassy, left again on the 28th, marching in the direction of Cahurah.

During the past week the number of men that have arrived at Galatz from Bender and passed on towards Bucharest has been 1,300.

Ammunition, both small arm and artillery, as well as a few heavy guns, have been sent by steamer up river from Galatz; it is said their destination was Giurgevo. There are now only eight heavy guns remaining at Galatz.

On the 5th instant the Russians engaged at Galatz the services of about 150 workmen, at a high rate of remuneration. These men were sent down to Isaakcha, where, I understand, that in addition to road-making, a bridge across the Danube is in course of construction.

The Roumanian frontier guard (Dorobonti) appear to have been disbanded at Ismail on the 3rd instant; the men returned to their homes, and the officers came to Galatz *en route* for Bucharest. The force was but a small one, about 150.

The Roumanian military authorities are inviting tenders for repairs to be made to the barracks at Galatz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 175.

Acting Consul Barker to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 30. Political.)
My Lord,
Salonica, July 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 5th instant, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, setting forth the reasons why a strong military force is absolutely required —the increase of brigandage, and the announcement that Rifaat Pasha, late of Kossova, would be the Vali at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure in No. 175.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,
Salonica, July 5, 1878.

NOW that the Plenipotentiaries in Congress are deciding on the measures to be adopted in Turkey, perhaps it may be useful to lay before them the experience of those who have lived nearly all their lives in the country, and who have no bias from pecuniary or other ties.

As every part of Turkey, more or less, contains a mixed population of races and creeds, arrangements should be made to prevent the political predominance of one nationality over others, and this appears to be only practicable by the existence of a strong military external force. Without this, if the Christian element predominate, the Mussulmans must emigrate, for they will not be able to live under it, unless an European Government be over both. If the Mahommedan element predominate, the Christians and Israelites cannot expect to be treated differently to what they have been for the last 400 years.

Your Excellency will have received numerous petitions from the Mussulman populations protesting against being placed under Christian rule, which goes to confirm what I have the honour to lay before your Excellency, viz., that such cannot be established (if at all) without very strong force. Reforms in Turkey can only be carried out by the political equality of persons, irrespective of creeds, and this will also necessitate strong military force, because the Pashas and Beys who have acquired their immense landed estates by force, will naturally wish to keep them, and as this can only be done by a continuance of their supremacy, they will combine together to instigate, either openly or secretly, as they have always done in former disturbances, the roughs, gipsies, and cut-throat villains who swarm in all vilayets (always armed), to resist the establishment of Christian interference or domination, for by it their reign would cease; this is irrespective of any religious fanatical feeling, though this would be used as a lever, and consequently a very strong external military force will be requisite, and not simply a "Christian police force," which I see advocated by some, because:—

The Christians, of whatever denomination, from centuries of submission, are incapable of becoming suddenly a military force, and acting independently, and a "mixed police" would not work at all, because individual interests clashing, the different creeds would each pull different ways. This would be the effect, at first, for some time, until the Mussulman element, being more warlike, would predominate then the Ulemas and the Mussulman refugees, who have lost all, taking advantage of this state of things, would excite the fanaticism of the rabble to deeds of violence, reprisals would ensue, as the Christians would then have arms, civil war be the consequence, and end by the massacre of the Christians "to avenge the reprisals."

The Imperial Irade lately imposing military service on Christians and Israelites was rejected by all classes, who felt the impracticability of its execution under present circumstances—the absence of strong military force.

I continue to receive from every quarter reports of the increase of brigandage, and of the stoppage of work in the rural districts, which causes immense losses to trade and to the Government Exchequer, and this points also to the necessity of strong military force; but at the same time this "force" must be directed by enlightened and just men, able and willing to discriminate who are brigands and who are not.

A telegram has been received at this palace here to the effect that Rifaat Pasha, late of Kossova, has been appointed Vali to succeed Ibrahim Pasha in this vilayet, he being incapacitated by his illness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 176.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 17.)

Sir, *Admiralty, July 17, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Hornby, received this morning, dated 16th July.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Prinkipo, July 16, 1878, 10·30 P.M.*

THREE Turkish ironclads and two paddle-wheel vessels have left to-day for the southward, I believe for Volo.

Following telegram, dated 4 this afternoon, just received from Rear-Admiral at Gallipoli, namely:—

"Russian outpost fired on steamboat of "Swiftsure" and struck her twice; they again fired on her at anchor with white flag flying. Wait your instructions on the matter. Full report by an officer leaving in passing steamer this afternoon."

End of telegraphic communication.

I am awaiting for arrival of officer with particulars before giving any instructions.

No. 177.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 672.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 17, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER assures me that the Porte will strictly confine itself to taking precautionary measures to meet any attack from Greece, and that it is to this end alone that troops and ships are being sent to Volo and Prevesa.

No. 178.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July 17, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 14th instant respecting reinforcement of Turkish forces in Thessaly and Epirus, owing to the attitude of the Greek Government and of the superior numbers of Greek military forces near the frontier, I am assured that there are only 4,000 or 5,000 men on the immediate line of frontiers, the other troops being stationed chiefly at Chalcis and Agrynion. The Porte appears to have decided to send more forces to Thessaly and Epirus since the decision of the Congress with regard to Greek frontiers has been made known.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 179.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July 17, 1878.*

THE Greek Government has to-day addressed an official communication to the Turkish Minister here, requesting him to beg the Porte to appoint Commissioners to regulate the new frontiers in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin. They have also sent instructions on the subject to Greek Minister at Constantinople.

President of Council of Ministers expressed to me the hope that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople would give his personal support to this question.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 180.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 17, 1878.*

THE following telegram, dated yesterday, has been received from Sir J. Commerell at Gallipoli:—

"Russian outposts fired on the steamboat of "Swiftsure," and struck her twice, they again fired on her at anchor with white flag flying; await instructions from the Commander-in-Chief."

Please draw Prince Labanoff's attention and send me his explanation.

No. 181.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 810.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 17, 1878.*

REAR-ADMIRAL COMMERELL, having reported from Gallipoli that the Russian outposts had fired on a boat belonging to the "Swiftsure," and twice struck her, and that they had further fired on her when at anchor with the white flag flying, I sent a telegram this day to your Excellency requesting that you would draw the attention of the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople to this circumstance, and send home any explanation which Prince Labanoff may have to offer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 182.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 125. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, July 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a translation from the "Romanul," the leading Liberal journal of Bucharest, supporting the Government, and also the *précis* of a speech of M. Rosetti, both of these referring to the decisions of the Berlin Congress concerning Bessarabia, and indicating, better than anything I could say, the excited state of feeling on the subject in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 182.

Extract from the "Romanul."

Bucarest le $\frac{28 \text{ Juin}}{10 \text{ Juillet}}$, 1878.

VOICI en quels termes le "Romanul" apprécie les travaux du Congrès relatifs à la Roumanie:—

"La plus grande iniquité politique du dix-neuvième siècle a été commise hier par l'aréopage Européen.

"Le Congrès a d'abord proclamé à l'unanimité et au nom de l'Europe l'indépendance de la Roumanie; ensuite, par une amère dérision, il a décidé de mutiler cette Roumanie indépendante, contre sa volonté, contre le droit des gens.

"Avant de prendre cette monstrueuse décision, le Congrès a invité les Délégués Roumains à se présenter devant lui, dans les mêmes conditions que les Représentants de la Grèce, et les a écoutés avec la plus bienveillante attention. Sur l'invitation du Prince de Bismarck, ils ont développé les points déjà soumis au Congrès par le Mémorandum; les deux Délégués ont défendu tour à tour la cause de la Roumanie, et l'attention avec laquelle ils ont été écoutés pouvait faire espérer une solution plus satisfaisante.

"Cependant, les dépêches télégraphiques nous annoncent que, après que MM. Bratiano et Cogalniceano eurent parlé, le Congrès a pris, à l'unanimité et avec le consentement de la Turquie, des résolutions diamétralement opposées aux demandes de la nation Roumaine, formulées et soutenues par les Délégués.

"Le Congrès a fait plus, il a abordé une question absolument intérieure, une question résolue par la Constitution Roumaine, et qui ne peut être résolue autrement que par la Constitution.

"Après avoir proclamé solennellement et à l'unanimité l'indépendance de la Roumanie, le Congrès a pris une résolution relative au droit intérieur de cette Roumanie indépendante: il a décidé que les Juifs jouiront de droits civils et politiques en Roumanie, comme il a été fait pour la Serbie.

"La question des Juifs a été mise par le Congrès sur la même ligne et résolue en même temps que la question de la Bessarabie. Les Juifs de Roumanie ont été mis sur la même ligne que les Russes, comme violateurs des volontés de la nation Roumaine.

"Si l'aréopage Européen croit avoir rendu ainsi un service aux Juifs de Roumanie il se trompe fort; rien et personne ne peut faire plus de tort à la question que le Congrès par la décision qu'il a prise.

"Les Roumains sont obligés de regarder les Russes comme leurs ennemis, à cause de la façon indigne à tous égards dont ils se conduisent envers eux. La violence que les Russes font aux Roumains n'est aucunement adoucie par le consentement de l'Europe. La violence reste la violence, et elle est faite par la Russie au mépris de tous ses engagements et à son profit exclusif.

"Eh bien! si cette violence fait que les Roumains considèrent les Russes comme leurs ennemis, la seconde violence qui nous est faite par le Congrès, relativement aux Juifs, est-elle de nature à bien disposer les Roumains en faveur des Juifs?

"Dans aucun pays indépendant, comme dit le Congrès qu'est la Roumanie, cette question, qui a été partout à l'ordre du jour, a-t-elle jamais été résolue de cette manière? En France, sous Napoléon I, en Prusse jusqu'à il y a sept ou huit ans, en Hongrie jusqu'à ces dernières années &c., les Juifs étaient dans la même situation politique qu'ils se trouvent aujourd'hui en Roumanie; en Russie ils sont encore à présent non-seulement privés de droits politiques, mais en proie à d'incessantes persécutions administratives. Pour lequel de ces pays s'est réuni un Congrès Européen, dans le but de lui imposer la reconnaissance de l'égalité des droits politiques? Dans lequel de ces pays la question a-t-elle été résolue par la force, et non par le cours naturel des choses, par l'affermissement progressif de l'inégalité et l'admission d'elle-même des Juifs dans le sein de la nation, quand cette admission est devenue le sentiment manifeste du pays?

"Mais ces questions sont basées sur le droit, et l'aréopage Européen nous a montré suffisamment que toute préoccupation du droit et de l'équité est exclue du concert des Grandes Puissances civilisées.

"Nous verrons cependant si l'arbitraire seul, vint-il de la part des sept Grandes Puissances du monde, suffit pour imposer à une nation digne et pleine de vitalité une volonté qui n'est pas la sienne.

"On nous prend la Bessarabie, on nous annexe la Dobrodja, on nous impose une modification de notre Constitution.

"Un seul de ces trois points peut être résolu par la force brutale. Toute la puissance de la Russie, appuyée du consentement des autres Puissances, ne pourra obtenir d'autre gloire que celle de nous enlever la Bessarabie en échange des services que nous lui avons rendus.

"Quant aux deux autres points, nous seuls les pouvons résoudre; toute la puissance de l'Europe viendra se briser contre notre résistance passive.

"Nous sommes convaincus que dans ces graves circonstances la nation Roumaine sera à la hauteur de la situation. Calme et digne, car la force découle du droit, elle ne prendra d'autre résolution que de conserver le respect et l'estime que le monde entier nous accorde.

Inclosure 2 in No. 182.

Précis of a Speech by M. Rosetti.

LE PARLEMENT ROUMAIN PENDANT LA CRISE NATIONALE.—Avant-hier, M. le Président du Conseil, interpellé sur l'opportunité pour la Chambre de tenir immédiatement une séance secrète, a répondu dans les termes suivants:—

"Les orateurs se basent sur ce qui a été publié. Eh bien, la publicité est libre, et le Gouvernement croit qu'il a répondu au désir de la Chambre en n'arrêtant aucune dépêche pouvant donner des nouvelles plus ou moins exactes. Il ne les a pas arrêtées, parce qu'il n'a pas voulu prendre la responsabilité d'aucune de ces nouvelles. Le Gouvernement n'a encore reçu aucune dépêche des Plénipotentiaires Roumains. Ils ont été reçus hier au Congrès, et, après qu'ils eurent expliqué les désirs et les volontés du pays, le Président du Congrès leur a déclaré que le Mémoire qui contient les vœux de la Roumanie serait imprimé et distribué aux membres du Congrès pour être examiné et discuté. Nos Plénipotentiaries ne nous ont rien dit de plus. Les nouvelles dont ont parlé les honorables Députés sont venues par la voie ordinaire de la publicité. Cependant, je crois que vous pouvez vous réunir en séance secrète et qu'il est bien que vous vous réunissiez souvent; vous avez envoyé des Délégués au Congrès; vous savez qu'ils suivront sans s'en détourner la ligne que vous leur avez tracée et que, dans tous les cas, ils ne feront rien sans vous consulter. Je ne vois donc pas la nécessité de suspendre les travaux ordinaires de la Chambre pour des séances secrètes que nous pouvons parfaitement tenir le soir.

Sur ces paroles, la Chambre a décidé qu'elle se réunirait le soir en séance secrète, ce qui a eu lieu.

No. 183.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 130. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying printed copy of the Report of the proceedings of the Roumanian Delegates at Berlin, which has been laid by them before His Highness the Prince of this country, and by his command before the Roumanian Parliament.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 184.

Lord J. Hay to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Nicosia, July 16, 1878.*

FOLLOWING sent to Constantinople.

Please communicate to Admiralty.

"Everything going on well. Much due to Samih Pasha's capacity."

No. 185.

Lord J. Hay to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Nicosia, July 16, 1878, 6·55 P.M.*

FOLLOWING telegram sent to Constantinople.

Please communicate it to Admiralty.

"Prison here is penal establishment for ruffians of Empire; 800 dangerous people, very insecure. Can they be shipped off?

"A legal officer well acquainted with Mussulman religious law is immediately and absolutely essential to the administration. Could one be found at Constantinople?"

No. 186.

Lord J. Hay to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 18.)

Nicosia, July 17, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram sent to Constantinople.

Please communicate to Admiralty.

"'Canara' arrived with sappers; rest expected 23rd."

No. 187.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 673.) *Therapia, July* 17, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING has been sent to Consul Sandwith to-day:—

Grand Vizier has sent very strong orders by telegram to the authorities in Crete for the severe punishment of regular soldiers found guilty of outrages upon the Christians.

"Let me know whether steps are being taken to execute them."

No. 188.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 674.) *Therapia, July* 17, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

REPRESENTATIVES of the Great Powers met to-day at this Embassy, and appointed Commission to visit Rhodope and neighbouring districts, in pursuance of resolution of Congress. Commission will leave on Saturday for Philippopolis. I have named Consul-General, French and German Consuls, Austrian Military Attaché, Russian Second Secretary, and Italian Second Dragoman are the other members.

No. 190.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 19.)

(No. 405.) *Athens, July* 8, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 401 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the President of the Council of Ministers called upon me this morning and begged me to express his gratitude and that of his colleagues to Her Majesty's Government for the support they have given to the Greek cause.

I have also the honour to report that M. Kalinski, the King's Private Secretary, called upon me later in the day, charged to present the thanks of His Majesty the King.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 191.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 19.)

(No. 360. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, July* 15, 1878.

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship by telegraph on the 10th instant that the announcement of the Anglo-Turkish Convention and transfer of the Island of Cyprus to Great Britain had led to most severe criticism on the part of the Italian press. The Radical papers have expressed themselves in no measured terms, attacking not only the Convention itself, but the work of the Congress in general, as also the part taken in its proceedings by the Italian Representatives.

I shall not take up your Lordship's time with full translations of the various articles which have been published on the subject, and shall limit myself to quoting in a few words the opinion of the various leading journals representing the different political parties.

The "Italie" suggests that the policy of Her Majesty's Government has ever, as in the present instance, been guided by the principle that "it was necessary to strike a profitable bargain honestly, if possible, but to strike in every case a profitable bargain."

The "Opinione" remarks: "What remains to be cleared up is not whether the results of the Congress are in accordance with those principles of justice, honesty, and equity which heretofore have constituted the basis of all diplomatic transactions, but if it be not still possible, to save Italy from her present false and delicate position, and amend the conditions of this new Treaty."

The "Perseveranza" observes that Italy joined the Congress unprepared, and without having entered into the necessary understandings with the other Powers for the due protection of her interests. In the Congress she found herself in presence of the Representatives of Powers, leagued together by secret compacts. Under the circumstances what could Italy do? Italy has certainly played a secondary and humble part on this great occasion, when it was the duty of the Government to specify clearly that which it had a right to expect, without permitting others to take advantage of our isolated position!

The "Diritto" (the organ of the present Cabinet) endeavours to defend the action of the Italian Representatives, and states that, if the Anglo-Turkish Convention had been submitted to the Congress, the Italian Representatives would certainly have raised their voices, and would have raised them as the Representatives of a Power solicitous of the interests of all, but more especially of those of their country. They would not have hesitated to warn England that this Convention affected the interests of Italy, and that they could not sanction an increase of influence on the part of so powerful a State in the seas which surround the Italian Peninsula.

The "Riforma," which represents the opinion of the late Depretis Administration, violently attacks the Government, but more especially Count Corti. It says that "the Government, blinded by party spirit and animosity, has sacrificed the interests of the nation. The Congress," the writer adds, "has resulted in a more shameful transaction than the Treaty of Vienna—this result being, in a great measure, due to the incapacity and worthlessness of their Representative, Count Corti, who has exposed Italy to the scorn and contempt of Europe."

I may here remark that, no doubt with a view to further embarrassing the Government, this paper states that during the short time that Signor Cairoli's predecessors were in office they had succeeded in re-establishing the most friendly relations with all the Powers, so that in the event of a Congress Italy should not be isolated, and with a view also to guarding against the cession of Bosnia-Herzegovina to Austria without the necessary equivalent compensation to Italy. They had likewise secured the promise that the Congress would take into consideration the question of the rectification of the Italian frontier in the direction of the Trentino. Whilst Italy, the writer adds, was thus protecting her interests by diplomatic negotiations, she was

actively pushing forward her armaments. Not only did Germany and England countenance the attitude of the Italian Government, but England herself, as well as Austria and Russia, sought the Italian alliance; and, indeed, confidential negotiations were on foot on the basis of territorial compensation.

The above is a résumé of the general tone of the press since the publication of the Convention; but I may add that the indignation at first manifested appears now to be giving way to a feeling of annoyance and irritation, less perhaps against England, for the valuable acquisition of the Island of Cyprus, than against the general result of the Congress, which has proved profitless to Italy.

Public opinion here certainly agrees that Italy's prestige and dignity have been sacrificed to benefit Austria; and it is probable that had it been possible to obtain a small rectification of the Trentino frontier, England's acquisition and her increase of influence in the Mediterranean would have passed unobserved.

This I have reason to believe is also the opinion of the Government, and though it will undoubtedly endeavour to justify the proceedings of their Representatives at Berlin, it is more than probable that, in the presence of the general dissatisfaction displayed by the country, and the political advantage which the Opposition will extract from it, the Government will have some difficulty, when the Chambers meet, in maintaining itself, or in avoiding a Ministerial crisis, which would inevitably entail the resignation of Count Corti.

Already, a meeting took place at Naples yesterday; and others are being organized in other towns, for the purpose of denouncing the policy of the Government; and the "Riforma," taking advantage of its intimate relations with the Crispi-Depretis Cabinet, is now preparing the public for the revelation of certain political secrets in connection with the confidential negotiations proposed by Her Majesty's Government, and which, it is said, Signor Crispi was willing to entertain, but which Count Corti blindly rejected.

In a conversation which I have had with Count Maffei, he complained bitterly of the unfair censure to which Count Corti has been subjected, and I gathered from his remarks that his Excellency's position would be rendered more difficult by the result of his mission to Berlin. He led me to infer that Signor Cairoli's inexperience, moreover, in matters connected with the foreign policy of the Kingdom, together with the agitation now prevalent, might lead the Prime Minister to underestimate the fact, wisdom, and judgment displayed by Count Corti in defending the interests of his country—a country whose army and navy are still disorganized, and whose finances were crippled by ill-timed economies, brought about by the agitations of those very individuals who are now clamouring against the subservient attitude of Italy at the Congress.

The present agitation will, no doubt, ere long, subside. It has been a sudden outburst of disappointment and irritation, arising from the natural vanity of a young nation, which has been led to nurse the idea that she is on a par with other great Powers, and as such had to be reckoned with and considered on this her first appearance on so important an occasion. Hence she is now disappointed, and somewhat humiliated. She feels less confidence in Germany's good-will and support; she feels alarmed at the increased importance and strength of Austria on the Adriatic, and at her common action with England in the East; she resents the increased influence of England in the Mediterranean; and, lastly, fears that France may eventually see the necessity of closer and more friendly relations with England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 192.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 19.)

(No. 302.)
My Lord, *Rome, July* 15, 1878.

IT is reported that, as soon as the Treaty of Berlin has been put into execution, the Pope will send a Prelate to Constantinople for the purpose of framing a Convention, the terms of which have already been settled and accepted, both by the Sultan's Government and the Vatican.

The Holy See will then be represented at Constantinople by an Internuncio, and the Sultan will be represented at the Vatican by a Chargé d'Affaires.

I believe, also, that the Holy See has at present under consideration the religious condition of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for the purpose of creating dioceses and parishes, and for the establishment of religious corporations in those provinces, &c.

The object in view is to raise a barrier against the invasion of the Russian Church, the preponderance of which in the Balkan Provinces might eventually prove prejudicial to the designs of the Church of Rome in reasserting its influence in the East.

The Italian papers state that with this object a special Convention will be concluded with Austria, and instructions to that effect have been sent to Monsignor Jacobini at Vienna. Monsignor Strossmayer, Bishop of Bosnia, will be created Metropolitan in those provinces, with full powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 193.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 19.)

(No. 303.)
My Lord, *Rome, July* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Naples relative to the popular meeting held in that town on Sunday, to protest against the foreign policy of the Italian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

Inclosure in No. 193.

Consul Grant to Mr. Macdonell.

Sir, *Naples, July* 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to you that a meeting was held yesterday at the "Sannazaro" Theatre in this city, for the purpose of protesting against the policy of the Italian Government in not having raised the question of a rectification of the frontiers of the Kingdom at the Berlin Congress.

The meeting, which was numerously attended, had been promoted by the members of the "Società della Italia irredenta," and was presided over by General Avezzana.

The following order of the day, proposed by Signor Bovio, Deputy to the Italian Parliament, was voted unanimously:—

"We being unable through the intrigues and abuse of power of the Congress to cancel the limits fixed by nature, Italy, strong in her own right, and for the protection of her own dignity, loudly protests against the external policy of the Ministry, and inscribes upon the heights of the Alps, upon the gates of Trieste and Trento, the bold motto of Latin prudence, 'Quod surreptum erit, ejus rei æterna auctoritas esto.'"

The meeting passed off quietly, and was not followed by any public demonstration.

Telegrams expressing sympathy with the meeting were received from the "Italia irredenta" committees of Lugano, Bologna, Trieste, and Mantua.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY GRANT.

No. 194.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received July* 19.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, July* 18, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you, for the perusal of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, two letters which have been received from Vice-Admiral Hornby relative to the state of affairs in Crete, and I am to request that these papers may be returned when done with.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 194.

Vice-Admiral Lord J. Hay to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)

"*Minotaur*," *in Suda Bay, June* 21, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that, on receiving the letter from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Mr. Sandwith, of which inclosed is a copy, I dispatched Her Majesty's gun-boat "Foxhound" to visit Gonia, Platanias, and Khania, showing the flag along the coast, but otherwise making no sign.

2. On being informed, on the 19th instant, by Mr. Consul Sandwith that the necessity for the presence of "Foxhound" no longer existed, I sent a despatch, desiring her Lieutenant and Commander to return to Suda Bay, where the gun-boat arrived yesterday.

3. Mr. Sandwith returned on the 19th instant from his visit to the insurgents, without having succeeded in improving the state of affairs. What might have been possible in the way of negotiations some days before cannot now be effected, it being evident that the insurgents now await their orders from Greece and Greece waits on the decisions of the Congress.

Rumours of skirmishing come from many directions, but not any of importance.

4. The Turkish men-of-war come and go, sometimes towards Spinalonga and at others apparently looking out for blockade runners, they have all completed with coal.

5. The channel squadron has been refitted aloft since being at the inner anchorage, but this week we have resumed the regular drills.

6. I employ the guns-boats to bring the Wednesday mail from Syra and to meet there the mail that leaves Syra very early on Sunday, the rest being done by the weekly Austrian packet. If, however, any despatch should arrive at Syra, seemingly of importance between whiles, the gun-boat has orders to bring it on at once, and the other gun-boat would leave here for Syra to take her place.

7. I have telegraphed to Rear-Admiral Luard asking him to send coal to complete, as "Monarch" is, I believe, coming here directly, and I do not think it advisable to leave the squadron to any extent short of coal under existing circumstances.

8. I beg leave to inclose a return of foreign ships-of-war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 194.

Consul Sandwith to Vice-Admiral Lord J. Hay.

(Strictly Confidential.)

Canea, June 16, 1878.

My Lord,

EARLY this morning the Governor-General called upon me and stated that, in consequence of a telegram which had come to his Excellency's knowledge purporting to give the decision arrived at by the Great Powers assembled in Congress with reference to the future of Crete which seemed destined to be united to Greece, his Excellency had serious misgivings lest the peace of the island should be disturbed anew. He told me that for some little time bands of Mussulman had been roving about beyond the military cordon and attacking peaceable Christians. His Excellency feared that, when the news so unpalatable to the Mussulman, which will be brought by the steamer due this evening, shall get abroad, they will be greatly excited, and may be tempted to undertake some desperate enterprize. What he more particularly fears is lest a foray may be attempted by them on the peaceable Christian villages of Kissamo, with intent to rob and kill; and he asked me whether I thought that your Lordship would have any objection to Her Majesty's ship "Foxhound" coming round and anchoring for a few days in the Bay of Canea, somewhere between Platania and Gonia, or under the shelter of the Island of St. Theodore, where its presence would tend to prevent any fanatical outbreak on that coast. It was a subject of satisfaction to his Excellency that the Italian dispatch boat "Carriddo" was already anchored off the town, and he did not disguise from me that but for the presence of your Lordship's squadron in Suda Bay, he should have entertained the most serious apprehensions for the lives of the Christian population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 194.

Vice-Admiral Lord J. Hay to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Sir,

"*Minotaur*," *in Suda Bay, June* 24, 1878.

THERE has been no change in affairs here since my last despatch of the 21st instant.

2. The Turkish men-of-war have been sent cruizing round the island, or in the neighbourhood of Spinalonga and Rethymo.

3. It was reported that an attack was to be made on the insurgent villages in the plains to the south of Aptera and in the Apokorona Valley on the 22nd, but for some reason it was put off until the 23rd instant.

The object seems to have been to extend the Turkish lines, so as to include within them the crops in those districts ready for gathering. It is deeply to be regretted that this has been found necessary; but it is fair to observe at the same time that Mr. Sandwith, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, informs me that, on his last visit to the insurgents some days back, he found that the crops of the Mussulman villages on his route had been carried off by the insurgents during the absence of their owners, and it may thus have become necessary to gather food for the dispossessed Mussulman population within the Turkish lines.

4. The anchorage in Suda Bay is hot, and becoming more so, still the ships' companies are comparatively healthy, and the sick lists have materially reduced during our stay here. Leave is occasionally given to special leave men, but I should not recommend men having general leave at this port during the existing troublous times.

5. While writing the above I have learnt that the Turks yesterday, 23rd, advanced their lines somewhat during the day, and in doing so lost six killed and sixty wounded. It is supposed that operations will be resumed to-day. I have offered medical assistance, but although gratefully acknowledged by the Admiral in command, it seems that their medical attendance is ample to meet all demands for the present.

6. It is now noon, and fighting is still going on, as I observe from the occasional discharge of guns in the Apokorona Valley, and I doubt not also in the eastern part of the island. I cannot help again expressing how much it is to be regretted that the insurgents have not accepted, temporarily at least, and until the decision of the Congress be made known, the exceedingly favourable terms which, I am informed by Mr. Consul Sandwith, were on the last occasion offered to them by the Turkish Government.

After making every allowance (and I think much is due) for their feelings in such a case, it seems impossible not to condemn this heedless conduct in casting away such an opportunity to stay bloodshedding until the will of Europe has been made known.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN HAY.

No. 195.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received July* 19.)

Admiralty, July 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copies of two telegrams from Vice-Admiral Hornby, dated 18th July, 1878, at Prince's Island.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 195.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Prinkipo, July 18, 1878, 3:30 P.M.

IN reference to my telegram of the 16th, I have received report of two officers of "Swiftsure" having been taken prisoners by Russians in the Gulf of

Xeros, and of the "Swiftsure's" boat being fired at on two occasions by Russian sentinels.

Officers released, no one in boat injured.

I have sent Flag Captain to-day to San Stefano with despatch on the subject to General Todleben, requesting explanation of such extraordinary proceedings for the information of Her Majesty's Government.

Report by to-morrow's mail.

Inclosure 2 in No. 195.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Prinkipo, July* 18, 1878, 5·25 P.M.

In reference to my telegram of to-day, Flag Captain has returned from San Stefano; had satisfactory personal interview with General Todleben, who was very civil; General stated verbally he had heard nothing whatever of the occurence, but he extremely regretted what had taken place; he promised a thorough investigation, and that he would send an officer specially to the Gulf of Xeros to make inquiries.

He added, he felt sure the superior Russian officer (s) in the district must be ignorant of any attack on the boat of the "Swiftsure."

No. 196.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 166. Secret.) *Vienna, July* 18, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

I LEARN that in the understanding to be come to with the Porte for the occupation of Bosnia Austrian Government will be ready to enter into a guarantee against attack by Servia and Montenegro.

The Turkish Plenipotentiary arrived here from Berlin yesterday, but the probability of his coming to a satisfactory arrangement with this Government will depend upon his receiving reasonable instructions.

Those which he first received amounted to a proposal that the Austrian troops should enter Bosnia to maintain tranquillity under the authorities; and no arrangement upon such a basis is possible.

The guarantee against the two Principalities is so important that, if it can be secured, the Porte would do well to raise few difficulties about rest of agreement.

No. 197.

Acting Consul Suman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, Albania, July* 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the news of the cession of Podgoritza, with the forts of Spuz and Zablac, to Montenegro, has caused great discontent here, and it will be necessary that precautions should be taken at Podgoritza, and orders sent to the Governor of Scutari, to prevent an effusion of blood. All the inhabitants of this province have agreed to resist with arms the occupation of their territory by Montenegro.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 198.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 676.) *Therapia, July* 19, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

INFORMATION has been given to Second Dragoman that the Russians landed a month ago on the Island of Marmora 10,000 rifles and 60,000 ordinary fire-arms, 30

guns, and 10,000 cases of munitions have also been landed at Aivali, Mytelene, and Tenedos by Greek vessels.

I have directed inquiries to be made into the truth of these statements.

No. 199.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 678.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 19, 1878.

FOLLOWING sent to Lord John Hay:—

"Receipt of your Lordship's telegram; the natives of Cyprus will be disbanded; those who do not belong to the island will be removed, and Minister for War will take the measures for purpose. Steps will also be taken immediately for the removal of 500 criminals, but the Porte hopes that they may be kept until sent for."

No. 200.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 679.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 19, 1878.

BILIOTTI telegraphs that in consequence of cession of Batoum, and movements of Russians in that direction, Lazes are concentrating their force; 8,000 have already left Batoum; Bey will unfurl British flag and fire on first Russian stepping on their territory.

No. 201.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1878.

WITH reference to the telegram Secret, No. 166, from Sir H. Elliot, repeated to you to-day, Her Majesty's Government desire you to take an opportunity of impressing on the Porte the great importance to Turkey of being moderate in the demands made on Austria. It would be of the highest value to the Porte to secure an Austrian guarantee against attack from Servia and Montenegro, and, if possible, from Bulgaria; and it would be very unwise not to take advantage of the apparent present readiness of Count Andrassy to give such a guarantee.

No. 202.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1878.

PRAY ascertain from the Porte when the convicts, who, it appears, are now in the Isle of Cyprus, are to be moved. Of course, they cannot be suffered to remain in the island.

No. 203.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 824.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1878.

IN the telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, dated the 18th instant, which was repeated to your Excellency this day, Sir H. Elliot informed me that, with reference to the understanding to be arrived at between Austria and the Porte as regards the occupation of Bosnia, he learns that the former would be prepared to enter into a guarantee against an attack on Turkey by Servia and Montenegro. His Excellency points out the importance to the Porte of obtaining such a

guarantee, and that the possibility of a satisfactory arrangement being attained would depend on the Turkish Plenipotentiaries, who had arrived on the previous day from Berlin, receiving reasonable instructions from their Government.

Considering the very great value which would attach for the Porte to an Austrian guarantee against an attack from Servia and Montenegro, and, if possible, from Bulgaria, Her Majesty's Government consider that it would be extremely unwise of the Ottoman Government not to avail themselves of the apparent readiness of Count Andrassy at the present moment to give such a guarantee; and they wish that your Excellency should press on the Porte, when an opportunity presents itself, the great importance to Turkey of exercising moderation in her demands on Austria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 204.

Mr. Gosling to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 52. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Copenhagen, July 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship a conversation which I had yesterday with Prince John of Glücksburg, the King of Denmark's brother, His Highness spoke as follows:—

"I most heartily congratulate you and your country on the brilliant success achieved by your Plenipotentiaries at Berlin. By their firmness and loyalty they have saved Europe and the world from calamities whose magnitude none of us can guage. They have restored to your great country the *prestige* she had lost, and more than that, they have given her a preponderating weight in the Councils of Europe such, perhaps, as she has never had.

"Russia has met with her due reward for the sacrifices she has made, and the solicitude she has shown for the Christian races of the East; and by the acquisition of Cyprus your position is rendered so strong that Russian dreams of conquest in Asia are irrevocably dissipated.

"Lord Beaconsfield has shown himself to be the greatest of living statesmen, and your country has, indeed, reason for feeling a just pride in him."

His Highness went on to say:—

"As regards Greece. I hope her claims will prove to have been listened to. My brother (His Danish Majesty) received a letter yesterday from King George, stating that the feeling ("stemming") in Athens was quieter, and that the news from Berlin encouraged the hope that the national aspirations had met with a favourable response."

Prince John is residing with the King at Bernsdorff, and it may, I think, be inferred that the sentiments expressed by His Highness are those of His Majesty and the Royal family, generally.

The Danish press, too, which, prior to the publication of your Lordship's circular despatch of the 1st April last, had, for many years, indulged in the strongest and most unfavourable criticisms on English policy, is, on the whole, satisfied with the reported result of the Berlin Congress; and since Danish journalism usually takes its tone from the French press, it is remarkable that even during the period when the publication by the "Globe" newspaper of the document alleged to have been signed by your Lordship and Count Schouvaloff caused so much ill-judged comment in the Parisian and other journals, the tone of the Copenhagen press was calm and moderate.

The leading journal of this capital, "Dagbladt," on account of whose violent and unjustifiable attacks on England, Her Majesty's Legation ceased subscribing to, though opposed to what it styles the "partitioning" of Turkey, writes as follows in its impression of yesterday:—

"In Berlin much too much honour is done to Prince Bismarck as the preserver of peace. It was certainly a great blessing for Europe that German interests were identified with a peaceful policy, and that the Chancellor was able to make his influence felt in this sense; but to Lord Beaconsfield, whose decided attitude, supported by a strong national feeling in England, is due the chief merit of having prevented a great war. Had Lord Derby remained at the head of Foreign Affairs matters would, in all probability, have taken a very different turn. Peace has been preserved chiefly because on this occasion it was known that England's word and her demonstrations

were in sober earnest, and the English people have thereby been taught a lesson which may have great consequences in the future."

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUDLEY GOSLING.

No. 205.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 20, 1878.*

IN reply to your inquiry, Count Schouvaloff states that in the opinion of Prince Gortchacow the Anglo-Turkish Convention is an additional reason for maintaining strictly confidential character of Memorandum No. 3, which your Lordship promised not to publish without assent of Imperial Cabinet.

If, he adds, Her Majesty's Government had confided in word of Russia that Convention was unnecessary; had they intended concluding that, it would have been better not to have proposed the Memorandum No. 3. Should it be published, it would be generally understood as implying that Russia engaged not to extend her conquests in Asia, but that England does not view this engagement as sufficient, and promises, nevertheless, to guarantee to Turkey her Asiatic possessions.

No. 206.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 400.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 20, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 399 of to-day's date, I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of Mr. Blunt's telegram to me and of my reply respecting the refugees from the district of Armyro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM

Inclosure 1 in No. 206.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Larissa, June 24, 1878.*

I RECEIVED this morning your telegram and letter of 19th instant. Mr. Longworth entered into no arrangement with insurgents and refugees of Armyro for neutral zone; the latter urged by Committees in Greece refuse to return, but want to gather in crops and take them into Greece, and insist upon Turkish troops at Armyro not moving from their present position. If you approve, please press Prime Minister to direct Greek Consul here to accompany me to Armyro and assist me in making a final effort to persuade refugees to return; he is willing but unable to do so without authority. Turkish authorities do not object to his assisting in this matter, and will extend to those refugees and insurgents returning the same assistance and protection according to the conditions of the amnesty which have been granted by them to those who have already come back to their homes.

Inclosure 2 in No. 206.

Mr. Wyndham to Consul Blunt.

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 20, 1878.*

GREEK Prime Minister, although anxious that refugees should return, is unwilling, owing to the reports as to the unsettled state of Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia, to assume responsibility of urging them through Greek authorities to do so; consequently, Greek Consul will not receive instructions in sense you desire.

I hope Turkish frontier authorities will act with moderation. Prime Minister says he is most anxious to avoid fresh difficulties.

No. 207.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 808. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 13, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the substance of the instructions given by the Porte to its Plenipotentiaries at the Congress of Berlin with reference to the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary. This Memorandum has been given to me in strict confidence, and it must not be known that I possess it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 207.

Instructions to the Turkish Plenipotentiaries respecting Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1. LE fait de l'occupation et les mesures à prendre en Bosnie et en Herzégovine par les autorités Austro-Hongroises, ne porteront le moindre préjudice aux droits de souveraineté de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

2. Les points de territoire qui seront occupés par les troupes Austro-Hongroises comprendront les localités limitrophes de l'Autriche, de la Serbie et du Monténégro, ainsi que les autres parties du territoire où l'occupation serait reconnue nécessaire par les Commandants-en-chef des troupes Ottommes et des troupes Austro-Hongroises.

Ces Commandants détermineront de la même manière, c'est-à-dire au moyen d'une entente entre eux, les districts où les troupes Ottomanes et les troupes Austro-Hongroises occuperont le pays conjointement pour agir de concert en le prêtant un mutuel appui.

3. La durée du séjour des troupes Austro-Hongroises en Bosnie et en Herzégovine sera limitée au temps nécessaire au rétablissement de la tranquillité dans le pays, et au rapatriement des réfugiés.

En tous cas, la durée de l'occupation ne devra pas excéder le terme de six mois (douze mois au plus). Si à l'expiration de ce terme la prolongation de l'occupation était jugée nécessaire, elle ferait l'objet d'une nouvelle entente entre les deux Gouvernements.

4. Les autorités Ottomanes de l'ordre administratif, judiciaire, ou financier, continueront à fonctionner dans les districts occupés par les troupes Austro-Hongroises, sans nuire aux mesures de santé que prendront les Commandants militaires Austro-Hongrois, pour l'accomplissement de leur mission, c'est-à-dire, pour le maintien de bon ordre et de l'harmonie entre les diverses populations du pays. Ces mesures devront être combinées de manière à ce que la présence des troupes étrangères affermisse, loin d'affaiblir, le pouvoir légitime des autorités Ottomanes.

5. Dans le cas où l'état de siége viendrait à être proclamé, comme mesure nécessaire, par les autorités militaires Austro-Hongroises, ces autorités auront tous pouvoirs à l'effet d'assurer l'observation des règles que comporte cette mesure exceptionnelle, sans étendre l'exercice de ces pouvoirs aux matières civiles ordinaires, qui resteront soumises aux lois et aux autorités Ottomanes.

Tout différend qui viendrait à surgir entre les autorités militaires Austro-Hongroises et les autorités Ottomanes sera déféré aux deux Gouvernements, qui le résoudront d'un commun accord.

7. Les autorités Ottomanes de chaque district occupé, et les Commandants militaires Austro-Hongrois seront autorisés à régler entre eux les questions se rattachant à la subsistance des troupes, à leur casernement ou campement, et tous les autres détails de l'occupation.

Vous êtes autorisé à signer avec le Comte Andrassy un arrangement sur les bases indiquées. Mais dans le cas où Son Excellence voudrait que cet arrangement soit conclu à Constantinople, vous la prierez de transmettre ses instructions au Comte Zichy.

No. 208.

Sir A. H. Layard to Mr. Secretary Cross.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 809.)

Sir, *Therapia, July 13, 1878.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 776 of the 30th ultimo, I have to state that, as soon as I received Consul Sandwith's despatch of the 1st ultimo, by which it appeared that he had been fired upon by Turkish troops whilst proceeding to Erè, in Apokorona, I communicated its substance, together with other statements from Mr. Sandwith as to the conduct of the Turkish military authorities, to the Grand Vizier, in a written Memorandum, suggesting the immediate dismissal of Salih Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the Turkish troops. This suggestion was at once acted upon by his Highness, and Salih Pasha was dismissed from his command.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 209.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

[For Parliament.

(No. 900.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 13, 1878.*

AS soon as I received your Lordship's telegram of the 3rd instant, telling me that Count Schouvaloff had informed your Lordship that he had the Emperor's authority to state that if the insurgents in Mount Rhodope ceased hostilities the Russian troops would not prevent them from returning to their villages, and would abstain from any act of repression, and that orders would be given in this sense to the military authorities, I communicated its substance to the Grand Vizier.

His Highness expressed his gratitude to your Lordship for taking an interest in the unfortunate Mussulmans of European Turkey, who were the victims of unparalleled cruelties on the part of the Russians and Bulgarians, and said that he would take measures at once to communicate your Lordship's telegram to the Chiefs in Mount Rhodope. His Highness added that he would appoint a person of rank as a Commissioner to proceed to the districts in question to endeavour to put an end to hostilities; but those who were in arms could not be called insurgents, as they were only defending their lives and property, and the honour of their women against a foreign enemy and the Bulgarians. They neither declared war, the Russians, or did they admit that they were in rebellion against the Ottoman authority.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 210.

Sir A. H. Layard to Mr. Secretary Cross.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 901.)

Sir, *Therapia, July 13, 1878.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 783 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to state that in pursuance of your instructions that I should inform Mr. Wyndham of the nature of the arrangements adopted with regard to the insurgents of Armyro and Platano, I have forwarded to him copy of Mr. Longworth's report dated Armyro, the 6th June, which was transmitted to me by Mr. Consul Blunt on the 9th June last; and I have requested Mr. Blunt to furnish Mr. Wyndham with such additional information on this subject as he may be in possession of, as with the exception of a report dated Larissa, the 25th June, copy of which was sent direct to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens by Mr. Blunt, I have heard nothing else on this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 211.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 906. Confidential.)

Therapia, July 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM informed, on good authority, that Russia is already commencing her usual intrigues among the Armenians of Asiatic Turkey. Russian agents are being sent into the provinces inhabited by them with the object of stirring up discontent against the rule and authority of the Porte. A Russian party is being formed in the capital amongst the Armenians, which already includes some leading and influential members of that community. The Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople called upon me last week, and after describing the difficulties in which he was placed in consequence of the hostility of this party to him, on account of his anti-Russian opinions and feeling, he proceeded to read to me a short speech that he had prepared. He stated that as the Congress had done nothing for the Armenians, and had not even taken into consideration their case which had been submitted to it by their Representatives at Berlin, and as England had declined to assume a protectorate over them, he could no longer remain at the head of the Constantinople branch of his Church, and was about to resign his office. He had prevailed upon his people, he went on to say, not to listen to the overtures of Russia, but to remain faithful to the Sultan. It was through his advice and exertions that the Armenians had not risen during the late war. But now that the Congress had done nothing for them, and that the name of Armenia was not even to be mentioned in the Treaty of Peace, the Russian party accused him of having betrayed the Armenian cause, pointing out that the Slavs and other Christian populations of Turkey, which had listened to Russia and had taken part with her in the war, were now rewarded by receiving their independence, or autonomous institutions. These arguments, the Patriarch ended by saying, had made so great an impression upon the Armenians, that they now denounced him as a traitor, and were "ready to stone him." He had nothing left but to resign, as he felt himself most seriously compromised in the face of his nation.

I endeavoured to calm the Patriarch's agitation by showing him that he would gain nothing by the step that he meditated, but would only introduce discord and disorder into his community, which was exactly what Russia wished. He would thus promote the success of those intrigues which he seemed to fear. I explained to him the terms of the Convention of the 4th June, with which he was not acquainted, and pointed out to him that the Porte had undertaken to come to an understanding with England for the protection and better government of the Christian and other subjects of the Sultan in Asiatic Turkey. The condition of the Armenians, I said, would be a special matter of interest to Her Majesty's Government, as they formed the largest and most intelligent portion of the Christian population in Asia Minor. I warned him that by taking any precipitate and ill-advised resolution he might frustrate the object that Her Majesty's Government had in view, and might even bring great misfortunes upon the Armenian community.

He promised me, after some discussion, that he would not resign for the present, but he earnestly requested me to ask your Lordship, by telegraph, to have some mention made of Armenia in the Treaty to be concluded at Berlin. He believed, he said, that even a mere reference to their country might reconcile the Armenians to the indifference with which their representations appear to have been treated by the Congress.

I agreed to comply with the Patriarch's urgent request, telling him, at the same time, that I could not hold out hopes that your Lordship could modify, in any way, the decisions to which the Congress had come as regards the Asiatic territories of the Sultan and their populations.

Since my interview with the Patriarch I have had occasion to speak with some of the principal Armenians of Constantinople on this subject, and they have fully confirmed to me the statements of his Eminence as to the efforts which Russia is now making to form a party amongst the Armenians, both in the capital and in the provinces, and as to the intrigues which she has already commenced for this purpose. They promised to persuade the Patriarch not to resign for the present, but to persevere in his policy of counteracting the efforts of Russia to establish an exclusive influence and control over the Armenian community. They looked with hope, they said, to the engagement entered into with England by the Porte to introduce reforms into Asiatic Turkey for the better government and protection of the Christians, and felt persuaded that if these reforms were fully carried out, and the Armenians prospered and were contented in consequence of them, a large number of Armenians who had emigrated to Russia, and others who belonged to provinces taken from Turkey and Persia, would escape from an oppressive Government which was gradually destroying their nationality, and would settle in the Ottoman dominions, where they could enjoy liberal institutions. If, however, the state of affairs in Armenia was to continue as it had hitherto been, and security for life and property were not assured to the Armenians by the Porte, they would be either compelled to take refuge in Russian territory, or to prepare, under Russian direction, for a future struggle to free themselves from the Turkish rule. This language was held to me by some high functionaries of the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 212.

Sir A. H. Layard to Mr. Secretary Cross.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 909.)

Sir,

Therapia, July 15, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 13th instant relating to the cruelties alleged to have been committed by Turkish soldiers upon the inhabitants of two Christian villages in Crete, I have to state that whenever such statements reach me from Consul Sandwith, or from any other British Consular Officer, I lose no time in bringing them to the notice of the Porte, and in pressing for an inquiry, and for the punishment of those who may be proved to have been guilty of outrages or excesses. In this particular case, I have, on receiving your telegram, further addressed a *note verbale* to the Grand Vizier, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

In consequence of the exaggerated accounts and inventions of Turkish cruelties and excesses, which come from Greek sources, and which are generally manufactured for a particular purpose, that of exciting European public opinion against Turkey and in favour of the aggrandizement of Greece, I have been cautious in taking official steps to demand redress from the Porte.

I have on many occasions found that these charges were altogether unfounded, and it is, in my opinion, desirable that before making them officially, I should be in a position to assert and prove their truth. You will find an instance of the danger of acting too hastily in my despatch No. 671 of the 24th May, relating to some outrages attributed to the regular troops and a Turkish General by the British Consular Dragoman at Salonica. Had I acted at once upon Mr. Bizzo's statement, I should have demanded the dismissal of Asaf Pasha and the punishment of persons who proved on subsequent enquiry to be innocent of the charges made against them.

No one, I trust, can feel more indignation than I do at such acts of cruelty as those described by Mr. Sandwith, whether they be committed by Mussulmans or Christians, Turks, Russians, or Bulgarians; and, as you are aware, as soon as I had satisfied myself that there were grounds for believing that the Turkish troops in Crete had been guilty of excesses, I demanded and obtained the immediate dismissal and recall of their Commander, Salih Pasha.

I would also very respectfully observe that there is some difficulty at the present time in inducing the Porte to listen to representations of this kind, and to take action upon them. It believes that Europe views with perfect indifference the unparalleled cruelties and outrages committed by the Bulgarians, with the connivance, and it is alleged, at the instigation of Russia, upon the Mussulman population of Roumelia and Bulgaria. It knows that in the horrible deeds which have been perpetrated by these Christians upon the Mahommedans—deeds that exceed a thousandfold anything even attributed to the Turks—Russian troops, certainly Cossacks, have been engaged. And yet, it observes, no remonstrances have been addressed by the European Powers to Russia, and this massacre of the Turkish population has been allowed to go on for months, until, it is stated, nearly half-a-million of human beings have, directly or indirectly, been its victims. When Turkish Ministers reply to my representations on behalf of the Christians by calling my attention to these facts, I cannot, I confess, offer as an explanation that the followers of the Koran cannot be considered in the

same light as Christians; and that a strong Power like Russia is entitled to do with impunity that which cannot be permitted to a weak Power like Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 212.

Note Verbale.

HER Majesty's Ambassador has the honour to communicate to his Highness the Grand Vizier, copy of a letter addressed to the Consuls of the Great Powers by the Christian Chiefs in the Island of Crete, who have formed themselves into a Provisional Government. It relates to cruelties alleged to have been recently committed by the Turkish troops upon the inhabitants of two Christian villages. The names of the victims are given, and there can, consequently, be no difficulty in ascertaining the truth of these accusations. Unfortunately, from the information which has reached Her Majesty's Consul, there is reason to fear that they are well founded. The outrages in question appear to have been committed not by Bashi-Bazouks, but by a particular battalion of Syrian redif, recruited in the district of Acre. The military authorities in the island are, it would seem, aware of the fact, and have removed this battalion to another part of the island.

Her Majesty's Government feel confident that as soon as his Highness the Grand Vizier is made acquainted with the facts referred to in the accompanying letter, he will give orders that a most searching inquiry be made into the statements that it contains, and that if they prove to be true, those who have been guilty of them will be brought to prompt and exemplary punishment. Her Majesty's Ambassador is convinced that His Highness will feel that it is essential to the interests of Turkey, as well as in the interest of justice and humanity, that immediate measures should be adopted with this view.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

July 15, 1878.

No. 213.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 21.)

(No. 910. Confidential.)

Therapia, July 15, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Memorandum of the substance of the Report addressed by Ahmed Khoulousi Effendi to the Porte on his return from his mission to the Emir Shere Ali Khan, of Afghanistan.

This mission is generally considered by the Porte a failure, and Ahmed Khoulousi Effendi was not well received on his arrival at Constantinople, which had been much delayed by a pilgrimage to Mecca. He has not seen the Sultan. The choice of this person, a Mollah with no knowledge or customs or languages of Europe, or of the usages of diplomacy, was an unfortunate one. He had not the necessary abilities or qualities for his task, and an additional blunder was made in sending with him a certain Lal Shah, a notorious Afghanistan intriguer and bad character, who appears to have betrayed the Envoy and to have done his best to frustrate the objects of the mission. I warned Edhem Pasha, who was Grand Vizier when Ahmed Khoulousi was sent.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 213.

Report by Khoulousi Effendi respecting his Mission to Cabul.

Dans un Rapport qu'il soumet à la Sublime Porte, Ahmed Khoulousi Effendi rend compte du résultat de la mission qu'il a été chargé de remplir dans l'Afghanistan, et des divers incidents qui l'ont signalée tant au cours de son voyage que pendant son séjour dans la ville de Kaboul, capitale de ce pays. Après y avoir mentionné les différents télégrammes qu'il a déjà adressés à la Sublime Porte relativement à sa mission, il poursuit en ces termes:—

"Comme il a été expliqué en détail dans mes instructions écrites portant la date du 1er Redjib, 1294, la Russie, emeuti de la religion Musulmane, ayant entrepris, il y a quelques années, une expédition dans l'Asie Centrale, et après y avoir conquis plusieurs États Musulmans, étant parvenu jusqu'aux frontières de l'Afghanistan, dans le but de mettre la main sur toutes ces contrées en faisant disparaître tout le monde Musulman qui les peuple, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale a pensé qu'il n'y avait aucune autre voie à suivre pour s'élever contre une telle conquête que celle de l'union et de l'entente mutuelle. Cette Puissance étant en guerre aujourd'hui avec le Gouvernement Impérial, l'occasion se présente d'elle même de tâcher à amener cette entente et cette union contre tous les Musulmans des États sus-mentionnés.

"Ma mission consistait donc à faire des démarches dans ce sens de la part de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, Khalife Suprême de tous les Musulmans, auprès de l'Émir de l'Afghanistan. Dans l'ensemble des mesures à prendre à cet effet, la première et la plus importante, aux yeux du Gouvernement Impérial, était celle qui consistait à vivre présentement en parfait accord avec l'Angleterre, Puissance amie et alliée de la Sublime Porte, et voisine, du côté des Indes, de l'Afghanistan.

"La seconde partie de ma mission se rapportait à la Perse. J'avais pour tâche de m'informer auprès de l'Émir, si, dans le cas où cet État, qui était depuis longtemps gagné à l'influence Russe, viendrait à prendre une attitude hostile envers la Sublime Porte durant la guerre actuelle, il lui était possible d'aviser aux moyens propres à le tenir en respect.

"A cause d'une indisposition de l'Émir, il ne m'a été donné d'avoir ma première entrevue avec lui que le quinzième jour de mon arrivée à Caboul. Au jour fixé, je me suis rendu à son habitation, et je lui ai remis la lettre autographe dont j'étais porteur, les lettres de leurs Altesses le Grand Vézir et le Chéikh-al-Islam, les décorations et les présents de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan. Aali Khan m'a reçu avec une parfaite bienveillance, et un contentement visible; entrant en matière, je lui ai exposé le but de la mission qui m'amenait auprès de lui, et j'ai eu soin de développer longuement et en détail les instructions qui m'avaient été données.

Ce que j'ai pu relever de tout ce que l'Emir a dit en réponse, c'est qu'il ne pensait pas qu'une telle démarche de sa part auprès des populations des contrées avoisinantes pût produire un résultat satisfaisant en raison du désaccord qui a toujours régné parmi eux; que déjà, bien avant l'expédition des Russes dans l'Asie Centrale, prévoyant leurs entreprises éventuelles, il en avait prévenu les Chefs des pays menacés, les exhortant à l'union, sans qu'il fût assez heureux pour se faire entendre; que si aujourd'hui il se préoccupait sans relâche de la réorganisation militaire du pays et de ses approvisionnements en munitions, c'était dans le seul but d'opposer une énergique défense contre celui des trois grands États, ses voisins, qui se serait avisé de marcher sur l'Afghanistan; que parmi ces trois Puissances, à savoir, l'Angleterre, la Russie, et la Perse, celle qu'il redoutait le plus était l'Angleterre, qui déjà avait occupé une partie des territoires de Khiva, dépendant de de l'Afghanistan, et qu'il lui était de toute impossibilité de prendre présentement une attitude hostile contre la Russie. En ce qui concerne la Perse, il a été d'avis que 30,000 hommes, fournis deux tiers par l'Afghanistan, et un tiers par la Sublime Porte, suffiraient, et au-delà, pour la tenir en respect.

Lors de mon audience de congé, Aali Khan s'est reporté encore sur le compte de l'Angleterre, et m'a fait par des vœux (?) qu'il formait de voir la Sublime Porte se servir de ses bons offices auprès de cette Puissance, puisqu'elle était en parfaite entente avec celle-ci, pour l'amener à retirer les forces qu'elle avait concentrées sur les frontières de l'Afghanistan. Il souhaitait voir mon départ s'effectuer un moment plus tôt pour travailler dans ce sens auprès du Gouvernement Impérial.

No. 214.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 21.)

(For Parliament.)

(No. 912.)

Therapia, July 15, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 884 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inclose further despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, reporting upon the ill-treatment of Mussulmans and Jews in the neighbourhood of Bottegas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 214.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, July* 10, 1878.

IN my despatch of the 4th instant, I mentioned the fact of the Mussulman villagers of Kara Abbalibey having been plundered, tortured, &c., by Bulgarians.

I have now the honour to report to your Excellency that the village in question is one of three, which alone of all the Turkish villages refused to leave their homes when steamers were sent here by the Ottoman Government to carry away the Mussulman emigrants from the Hassekí district.

The two others, Beleyren and Ahlatli Kebir, have, I regret to say, been also sacked at various times by their Bulgarian neighbours, and so effectually, that at the present moment there are not ten pairs of working beasts in the two villages, which collectively number about 120 families. From Beleyren alone 300 head of oxen, buffaloes, and horses, were carried off at once some weeks since; and it is literally impossible for a Turk to stir outside his village without running the risk of being fired at; so that these peasants have but little hope of being able to reap their crops.

They have complained to the Local Council here, but without effect.

In a recent conversation with a Bulgarian peasant (whom I have known for many years) from the environs of Karnabád, he told me that cattle-lifting was now more frequent than it had ever been previously. On asking whether the Turks of the mountains (in the neutral zone) ever came to rob, I was told: "No; but our Bulgarians go into the hills and steal Turkish cattle." To a question I put as to the Provisional Government of Karnabad, I received the answer that the action of the authorities there [illegible]

Not only are the Bulgarian peasants and Bulgarian members of the local Administrations thus permitted with impunity to plunder and do worse, but the Provisional Government itself appears bent upon the ruin of the Mussulman element throughout the country; all the Turks who have returned here for the purpose of claiming their sown crops are prohibited from getting them reaped, and their fields have either been confiscated by the authorities or sold to Bulgarians at a little of their market value, whilst some of them have been told plainly that Mussulmans have no longer the right to possess property in this country.

From a member of the Local Council of Bourgas I learn that on the 8th instant an order was received here, according to which "no assistance was to be given to any Mussulman, no matter what his previous character or reputation, who, having once quitted the country, may return to claim houses, lands, or any other property, moveable or immoveable."

Whether the information thus given me be, or not, literally correct, I have no hesitation in affirming that the Bulgarian local authorities have acted, are still acting, and apparently intend to continue to act, in the spirit of the alleged order.

I have, &c.

Signed CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 214.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, July* 11, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following information, which I have to-day received from Karnabad:—About the middle of last month ten Jews belonging to the town of Karnabad, and who had emigrated during the month of January, were sent back to their homes at the expense of the Jewish Alliance at Constantinople. On their return they were so ill-treated that eight of them (amongst whom were several who had been beaten with sticks) found it impossible to remain; two of their number, however, were informed by the Bulgarians that as they were tinsmiths (a trade exercised in these parts by Jews only) they might stop in the town, and a dwelling-house was assigned them.

[illegible] Abraham, son of Mordecai, and Ghiddaliah, son of Aaron, were attacked in their house by Bulgarians who took from them all their earnings (about 7*l.*), and beat Ghiddaliah most cruelly

Mosé escaped by promising to go to another house and bring some more money; but it is scarcely necessary to say that he did not return amongst the robbers.

Of the seventy houses which formed the Jewish quarter in Karnabad only one, belonging to M. Presenti, an Austrian subject, now remains; the rest were sold, by order of the authorities, to the Bulgarians of the town, for, literally, a few shillings, and were by them pulled down, in order to use the planks and timber to rebuild the shops burnt at the time of the evacuation of Karnabad, in January last; a wooden granary, belonging to M. Presenti, capable of containing 500 imperial quarters of wheat, and of which the planks, &c., were worth 80*l.*, was thus sold for less than 1*l.* 15*s.* M. Presentis' son has also been refused permission to cut the standing crops belonging to his father.

I venture to submit to your Excellency that as long as Russo-Bulgarian rule prevails in these districts, it is absolutely necessary that some sort of neutral protectorate should be established, to which all non-Bulgarians should be able to appeal, in the interests of their lives, honour, and property.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 215.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 21.)

(No. 911.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul R. Reade relative to the proposed arrangements for the evacuation by the Turks of Shumla and Varna.

I also have the honour to transmit to your Lordship translation of two petitions addressed to General Fazli Pasha, one on the subject of the cruel treatment experienced by the Mussulman inhabitants in the neighbourhood of Shumla and Osman Bazar at the hands of the Russo-Bulgarians, especially as regards the cutting of the harvest; the other reporting the murder of three Mussulman refugees by Christians.

Mr. Consul Reade has also sent me a petition in Turkish from the refugees, addressed to your Lordship, which I have not yet been able to have translated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD

Inclosure 1 in No. 215.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, July* 13, 1878.

SINCE closing my despatch of the 11th instant, the Russian war-steamer "Grand Duke Constantine" has entered the harbour from Constantinople, with Sivri Pasha and a Russian General whose name I have not been able to get.

I am told that a Commission is to be formed at once, and composed of Sivri and Hajji Rechid Pashas, the latter Military Commandant here, on the part of Turkey, with the Russian General and another officer on the part of Russia.

This Commission is to go up to Shumla to-morrow, where the evacuation is to commence so soon as the refugees are all safely sent back to their homes, and with their arms. Directly this is done, I am told, Russian troops will occupy the outer works of Shumla, and then all the Turkish matériel, &c., is to be brought to Varna, where the same process is to be carried out.

Whether all this will be carried out satisfactorily remains to be seen.

On the landing of the officers from the "Grand Duke Constantine," the crowd of Turks and Greeks assembled there appeared very downcast, but no demonstration whatever took place whilst the Commissioners were going to the Vali.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

P.S.—Just as the post was closing I received the inclosed from General Fazli Pasha. I have had no time to get a translation made of the Turkish document, which is a petition from the refugees to Lord Salisbury.

[1021] 2 I

I have also just received a letter from Vice-Consul Brophy, of Bourgas, which arrived this moment, and from which the following is an extract:—

"The business of cutting the Turks' fields for them has fallen through on account of the corruption of the Russo-Bulgar Administration, whose object is to secure as much money as possible before they go away; they do not allow the Turks the right to dispose of their property even though they come in person."

Inclosure 2 in No. 215.

Report by Hussein Sabri.

[For Parliament.]

(Traduction.)

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence, que dans la ville d'Osman Bazar existait 650 maisons Musulmans; les trois quarts de ces habitations ont été détruites par les Bulgares et les bois de bâtisse transportés et brûlés dans leur maisons; et le reste de ces habitations furent encore détruites dernièrement par les employés de la police et les Bulgares, et les bois furent vendus à ceux qui bâtirent des magasins. Les habitants de cette ville, dont la moitié réside à Chumla, et l'autre moitié dans le district de Gherlova, demandèrent la permission aux employés désignés par les Russes, pour aller moissonner leur récolte; ceux-ci répondirent qu'ils n'obtiendront la permission exigée que dans le cas qu'ils viendront en famille habiter leur foyers. Cette mesure est prise par les employés Russes et Bulgares dans le seul but de prendre possession des récoltes appartenant aux Musulmans, vu que ces derniers ne possèdent pas même une cabane pour pouvoir loger.

Les Chrétiens du village de Tchutak font aussi mille sortes de difficultés à l'entrée des réfugiés appartenant au dit village. Avant une semaine le nommé Hassan, fils de Retvan Agha, du village de Tchutak, qui habitait le village de Veysserler, une demi-heure de distance du premier village, pendant qu'il allait dans ce village pour faire ferrer des bœufs, fut arrêté, et deux jours après on le trouva pendu aux environs du village de Tchutak. Les Bulgares qui se trouvent dans le village de Hassan Fakyé, et qui ne sont en nombre que quinze familles seulement, font aussi des difficultés à l'entrée de soixante-cinq familles réfugiés Musulmans, et que par suite de cette mesure celles-ci se voient obligées d'habiter les villages d'environ. Et encore avant un mois d'ici, les quinze mercenaires des villages de Tchanaktchelar et Youniclienlou qui transportèrent des marchandises à Kazan, à leur retour furent arrêtés par les Chrétiens, entre la ville de Kazan et Tchanaktchelar; on leur lièrent les mains et prirent possession de leur dix-huit paires de bœufs.

Le Membre de l'Administration Civile d'Osman Bazar,
(Signé) HUSSEIN SABRI.

Le 28 Juin, 1878.

Inclosure 3 in No. 215.

Report by Ismail Aly.

[For Parliament.]

(Traduction.)

JE demeurais avec d'autres réfugiés dans le village de Mourad, dépendant de Djouman. Avant dix-huit jours d'ici, obtenant une passe d'Iman et de Mouktar du vit village, je me mettais en route avec un de mes villageois, nommé Métaoglou Ohmed, pour aller à notre village. Arrivés devant le village Rouzu, nous fîmes viser notre passport par l'officier Russe et continuâmes notre route vers Tirnova. Avant d'arriver dans cette ville, avons passé une nuit dans notre village, et le lendemain reprîmes notre route. Chemin faisant, avons rencontré l'un des Chrétiens de notre village, qui nous annonça que le nommé Hasmenoglou Salih, qui était venu tout dernièrement habiter son village, a été tué avec ses deux autres compagnons, entre notre village et Siteviteh, devant le terrain appartenant à Hodjé Aly, et qu'on venait d'enterrer tous les trois. Avons demandé immédiatement des renseignements concernant ces meurtres; le Chrétien nous a répondu qu'il avait entendu en parler le gendarme nommé Tovak Petko, du village Kamaniché; que celui-ci en allant au village de Trauiche, aurait vu gisant sur le chemin ces trois cadavres, et aussitôt en aurait informé le capitaine qui se trouvait au village de Trauiche. Il avait résulté d'après

l'enquête ouverte que ces trois infortunés, après avoir fait viser leur passeport à Djouman, passèrent des villages de Pavlekyan et Ressné Bedirli, arrivèrent au village de Sinévintzé, descendirent et prirent leur repas chez Getchoglou Ghetcho, et après, continuant leur route vers le village Radan, furent poursuivis par quelques-uns des Chrétiens du village Sinevintzé, et dès qu'ils furent attrapés on les blessa mortellement avec des couteaux.

L'autorité aurait arrêté trois personnes soupçonnées, mais l'enquête n'étant pas poursuivie rigoureusement, le Chrétien a ajouté que tous les réfugiés Musulmans subiraient le même sort que ces trois malheureux s'ils venaient dans ces parages. Aussitôt arrivés à Tirnova, avec quelques Tchorbadjis Bulgares, les Chrétiens de cette ville nous entourèrent devant la boutique de Stantcho, en fixant sur nous des yeux effarouchés, et commencèrent nous de questionner en blasphémant, et entre autres nous demandèrent si nous avions pris part au pillage d'Elena; leur colère s'excita tellement qu'ils avancèrent sur nous avec l'intention évidente de nous ôter la vie, mais heureusement nos compagnons de voyage nous délivrèrent non sans peine.

Enfin, étant convaincu qu'il serait impossible aux Musulmans de vivre en bonne intelligence avec les Chrétiens de ces parages-là, nous nous sommes empressés de retourner sur nos pas.

Le Membre du Conseil de Juge,
(Signé) DADJI VASSILOGLOU DJAKO.
Le Secrétaire du Conseil de Juge,
VASSIF ISMAIL.

Le 28 Juin, 1878.

No. 216.

Vice-Consul Billotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 21.*)

(No. 92. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, July 5*, 1878.

HER Majesty's Ambassador having instructed me, with reference to my despatch to your Lordship, No. 71, of the 29th ultimo, not to hold any hopes to Prince Tseretely that his proposal of an invasion of Georgia will be entertained under present circumstances, he now begs to submit to your Lordship's consideration a second project, which seems to have been elaborated by his countrymen in prevision of the failure of the former one.

This project has in view to prevent the dangers with which Russian designs menace European interests in general, and British interests in particular, in the East.

It advocates the issue in Turkey of periodicals in the Georgian language, and the appointment in the Caucasus of agents, in order to prepare the populations for a general movement, having for object the independence of the Caucasus, whenever circumstances from without render the scheme practicable.

The annual expense for carrying out the project devised is reckoned by Prince Tseretely to amount to 2,000*l.*, and he submits as a more economical plan, a loan by Her Majesty's Government of 30,000*l.*, to be redeemed in forty-one years.

Without entering into the advisability of the means proposed by Prince Tseretely, I am induced to believe that the object in view may deserve the attention of Her Majesty's Government, the independence of the Caucasus being without doubt the greatest possible check to Russian encroachments in Asia.

Whatever may be done now to maintain our political and commercial relations with Persia and Asia through Turkey, the more favourable position occupied by Russia by her command, through the Caucasus, of both the Black and the Caspian Seas will, in the course of time, completely annihilate British trade in the East.

Russia is actively pushing forward the construction of the railway from Tiflis to Baku, which it is reckoned can be completed within five years. She had in view on the passage of the Shah of Persia through Russia to enter into a commercial Convention with him, and possibly to obtain by means of money, the cession of the Port of Resht. She is striving to get Batoum, which not being now in communication by roads with the inland districts of Asia, is now useless in the hands of the Porte.

If Russia succeeds in all her schemes, in the course of five years she will be the only mistress of the direct communications between the excellent Ports of Batoum and

Reshd, both of which, besides the advantages they present for commerce, are formidable naval stations, and will give her uncontested dominion over all Asia.

Great Britain having nothing to fear from open competition, her prestige and commerce in Asia and Persia will become paramount, by the severance of the Caucasus from Russia.

The Caucasus is the shortest route, not only to Central Asia, but also to Persia, with the uncontested command of the Caspian Sea, and the possession of Batoum.

It must be borne in mind that all the eastern coast of the Black Sea, from Kertch to Synope, is without good harbours. All the Russian ports on the northern coast either offer little shelter against gales, or are rendered useless by the alluvions carried by the rivers on the coast. So it is with the Turkish ports on the southern coast.

Batoum alone is an exception, and this is the motive of the persistence of Russia to obtain its cession. Her power in Asia cannot be complete without it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILLOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 216.

Exposé d'un Projet pour prévenir les périls dont les Désseins de la Russie menacent les Intérêts Européens en Orient.

LE Caucase est une grande chaîne de montagnes erigée par la nature même, comme une barrière insurmontable, entre la Mer Noire et Caspienne, pour défendre l'Asie Mineure du vent boréal, et, comme nous l'apprend l'histoire, des invasions des peuples de la Scythie.

La situation sympathique de ce pays est telle qu'il est impossible de l'attaquer ni de front, ni de le contourner, parce qu'il a les deux flancs appuyés sur des mers.

Les peuples du Caucase n'ont jamais été conquis par la force; aucun ennemi n'a jamais pénétré dans ce pays sans l'invitation ou le consentement des indigènes.*

Le Royaume des Perses, dans le cinquième et sixième siècle avant l'Ere Chrétienne, n'a pas dépassé les limites du Pont, pas plus que celui d'Alexandre le Grand; le grand Empire Romain était limité au nord par le fleuve Bous, qui se nomme maintenant Tchorökh-Sou, près de Batoum.

Mithridate, le grand Roi des Colches et des Ibères, était devenu le plus terrible ennemi des Romains, à cause de sa position stratégique, qui s'appuyait sur la chaîne du Caucase, et que les généraux Romains ne pouvaient ni enlever de front ni tourner. Dans les annales Géorgiennes ce Roi illustre fut nommé Mithridate le Grand, Roi des Géorgiens. Toutes les fois qu'il était vaincu par les Romains il se retirait en Colchide et en Ibérie, c'est-à-dire, dans la Géorgie où il formait une nouvelle armée, déclarait de nouveau la guerre aux Romains, et ravageait l'Asie Mineure.†

Dans le cinquième, sixième, et septième siècle après Jésus-Christ, les deux grands Etats: le Royaume des Perses et l'Empire Byzantin, guerroyèrent l'un contre l'autre pour avoir la prépondérance et l'influence politique dans l'Asie Mineure; mais pendant les préparatifs de chaque nouvelle guerre, ils venaient chacun de son côté demander à s'allier au Roi d'Ibérie, et celui qui le gagnait à sa cause était toujours vainqueur.‡

Pour la Perse la Caucase était sa base solide droite, et pour l'Empire Byzantin sa base solide gauche.

Celui qui possédait la base susdite commençait la guerre offensive de ce côté, et se rendait maître de l'Asie Mineure.

Au huitième siècle les Arabes conquirent la Perse et commencèrent une guerre continuelle contre l'Empire Byzantin; mais tant que les Musulmans n'étaient pas parvenus à s'emparer de la Mer Noire, et à isoler ainsi le Caucase, il ne purent pas s'affermir dans l'Asie Mineure,§ à cause de l'alliance existant entre l'Empire Byzantin

* "Histoire Géorgienne," par Brosset; "Histoire Géorgienne," par Barathoff; "Histoire Byzantine," par Lebeau.

† Appien, 101, Dion, livre cx.

‡ [illegible]

§ [illegible] par George Zérétely.

et le Royaume Géorgien, qui menaçait toujours les Etats Mahométans de trois côtés à la fois.

Au treizième, quatorzième, et quinzième siècle les Turcs arrivèrent comme une grande vague sur les rivages de la Mer Noire et de la Méditerranée, et isolèrent complétement l'Empire Byzantin du Caucase.

Pendant ces siècles les Ottomans luttèrent avec grand avantage contre les Byzantins et les Géorgiens.

En 1453 l'Empire Byzantin périt; mais le Royaume Géorgien continua à se défendre jusqu'au huitième siècle.

Ainsi les Géorgiens combattirent seuls pendant huit siècles tantôt contre les Turcs et tantôt contre les Perses.

A la fin du huitième siècle les Turcs conquirent les provinces Géorgiennes Samtzché-Saatabago et Tchaneth-Kohoutety, qui forment maintenant les districts d'Ardahan, d'Olth, d'Ajara, de Lazistan, de Tchouroukssou.

Pendant ces luttes aussi répétées que cruelles le Royaume Géorgien s'affaiblit et se dépeupla.

Enfin en 1794 le Chah de Perse, Aha-Mahomed-Khan, avec 100,000 hommes ravagea les provinces Orientales du Royaume, et après avoir été battu et chassé du Caucase, le Roi Géorgien, Eraclès II, pour sauver le Royaume des mains des Mahométans, conclut un Traité avec l'Impératrice Cathérine II.

Par ce Traité la Russie devait protéger le Royaume Géorgien qui devait à son tour être toujours l'allié de la Russie et fournir un contingent de guerre. En même temps le Roi Eraclès II fit transférer au-delà de la chaîne des Caucases un régiment Russe qui passa en deçà avec ses batteries pour former les cadres des nouvelles troupes qui devaient être organisées parmi les Géorgiens à la manière Européenne.

Après la mort du Roi le Gouvernement Russe envoya en Géorgie deux agents: l'un civil et l'autre militaire.

Le nouveau Roi Géorgien, George XIII, étant d'intelligence faible, ces agents purent l'exploiter au profit du Gouvernement Russe.

Ils obtinrent du Roi la position d'augmenter les troupes Russes dans le pays, et il ne s'était pas passé six ans que les agents Russes réussirent à corrompre une partie de la noblesse.

A la mort du Roi George XIII, en 1801, à la suite d'une insurrection que les Russes mêmes firent naître, l'annexion du Royaume Géorgien à l'Empire Russe fut proclamée.

En 1820 le Gouvernement Russe, profitant de la corruption d'une partie de la noblesse Géorgienne, parvint par des intrigues à transférer toute la famille royale à St.-Petersbourg et à Moscow, à introduire dans le pays l'Administration Russe, à fonder des écoles Russes, et à abolir la langue Géorgienne dans l'emploi officiel. Une telle violence du droit national excita contre les Russes le peuple Géorgien, qui se révolta dans quelques localities; mais comme les Géorgiens ne pouvaient pas agir ensemble à cause de l'occupation par les troupes Russes de tous les défilés, ils furent battus en détail.

Ainsi fut étouffé l'insurrection Georgienne; mais la véritable cause du facile assujétissement de la Géorgie doit être attribué à son épuisement par les luttes gigantesques qu'elle avait soutenues pendant quatorze siècles contre les ennemis qui l'entouraient de tous côtés.

Au commencement du dix-huitième siècle le peuple tomba dans la misère et plusieurs provinces Géorgiennes furent dépeuplées. Voilà pourquoi il voulait à tout prix, même au prix de son indépendance, la paix; et comme les Russes Orthodoxes avaient beaucoup de troupes qui tenaient en respect les Mahométans, il supporta patiemment pendant quelque temps les empiétements commis par les usurpateurs sur ses droits. Accablé par la misère et alléché par la perspective de la paix, il n'avait pas le temps de se rendre compte des institutions divers des usurpateurs qui tendaient à détruire peu à peu les institutions, le principe national même chez le peuple Géorgien.

Le Gouvernement Russe n'épargna ni argent ni honneurs pour attirer la noblesse Géorgienne dans son emploi et s'appuyer sur elle pour assujétir aussi tous les Mahométans du Caucase.

La guerre contre les Montagnards Caucasiens fut terminée à la fin de 1865. Etant devenu le maître absolu de tout le Caucase et s'appuyant sur cette forte base stratégique, il eut l'intention de s'emparer de Constantinople et de consolider sa prépondérance politique sur toute l'Asie.

Il se passa alors un fait remarquable. En 1866, c'est-à-dire précisément un an après la fin de la lutte avec les Montagnards, 5,000 hommes bien organisés étaient jetés en une semaine de Pétrovski (situé à l'extrémité sud de la chaîne Trans-Caucasienne sur la Mer Caspienne) dans le Turkestan, qui, cette même année, fut conquis jusqu'à Tachkend.

C'est la première fois que s'affirma si évidemment la grande importance stratégique de ce point pour conquérir peu à peu toute l'Asie.

Si ce n'eut été entrepris du côté du Caucase, ou à plus proprement parler, de la Trans-Caucasie, il n'aurait pas été possible de traverser avec des troupes considérables les immenses déserts de sable rouge, n'offrant ni eau ni approvisionnement, et de parvenir jusqu'aux frontières de la Chine et du Caboul. Ce progrès inattendu sous le point de vue politique compensa les énormes dépenses encourues par le Gouvernement Russe dans le Caucase. Tout le déficit du Budget Russe était occasionné par les dépenses faites pour consolider son autorité dans la Trans-Caucasie.

Mais le Gouvernement Russe ne perdait pas de vue qu'après s'être assuré de cette forte base toute l'Asie tomberait tôt ou tard entre ses mains et le compenserait de ses débours par les exploitations qu'il y ferait. Mais c'est en réalité le peuple Géorgien qui a ouvert la porte à cette victoire politique Russe en Asie; c'est le Roi Géorgien Eraclès II qui mit son pays sous la protection de la Russie en faisant venir les Russes dans le centre même du Caucase.

S'il n'avait pas ouvert le chemin jusqu'au centre du Caucase, où se trouve la Géorgie, les Russes n'auraient jamais vu la Trans-Caucasie.

Le régiment de grenadiers qui reçut la première fois l'ordre de se rendre en Géorgie employa onze mois seulement pour traverser la grande chaîne du Caucase et pour arriver à Tiflis.*

Ainsi, pour parcourir 260 verstes ou 28½ lieues Allemandes, un régiment employa presque une année. Les hommes en passant les montagnes devaient aller à la file les uns des autres; le transport des canons fut fait à bras par les Géorgiens, les Russes ne pouvant pas le faire.

On peut s'imaginer si ces troupes auraient pu franchir ces montagnes, dont il eut été facile, à deux ou trois hommes seuls armés, de défendre les étroits défilés en y roulant des blocs de pierre.

Le Caucase est plus élevé que les grands plateaux de l'Asie Mineure. Il est presque impossible de se rendre maître du Caucase du côté de l'Asie Mineure; cela est affirmé par l'histoire de la longue lutte des Mahométans contre les Géorgiens. Au contraire, les plateaux de l'Asie Mineure sont dominés par ceux du Caucase et celui qui s'y fortifie a la jouissance de la Mer Noire et de la Caspienne, et doit finir par s'emparer immanquablement de l'Asie Mineure.

La Russie étant actuellement seule maîtresse du Caucase, aucune circonstance aucun Traité même ne l'empêchera de conquérir l'Asie Mineure, si on ne l'oblige pas par la force à évacuer la Trans-Caucasie; c'est le seul moyen par lequel on peut arrêter la Russie dans ses desseins aussi ambitieux que dangereux pour les intérêts en Orient de l'Angleterre et de toute l'Europe.

Si les présentes complications avaient une solution pacifique il faudrait que l'Angleterre commençât par transférer l'arène de son action au centre du Caucase même pour qu'elle ne soit pas surprise par la Russie dans l'avenir comme elle l'a été dans le passé.

Elle ne devrait pas hésiter plus longtemps à agir dans la Géorgie.

Dans le Caucase il y'a à présent deux nationalités bien avancées sous le rapport du développement intellectuel—les Géorgiens et les Arméniens. Elles ont leur histoire et leur littérature ancienne et moderne qui sont assez riches et développées.

Mais entre toutes les races Caucasiennes appartenant à d'autres rites, il n'y a que les Géorgiens qui jouissent d'une influence assez grande sur les autres, parce que les Géorgiens sont une nation indigène dont l'origine remonte aussi haut que l'histoire.

C'est pour cela que l'histoire des Géorgiens est aussi l'histoire des autres peuples du Caucase; et c'est là la cause véritable de la grande influence dont jouissent les Géorgiens parmi les autres peuples du Caucase.

Tous les Arméniens du Caucase ont émigré des provinces Turques au commencement de ce siècle.

* "Histoire du Régiment Grenadier Russe," par Kodek. Tiflis, 1866.

Ils forment dans le pays la classe commerçante, possédant de l'argent mais pas de terrain.

Les Arméniens du Caucase s'appuient toujours sur la Turquie, et toutes leurs sympathies sont pour Constantinople où ils sont bien soutenus par leurs compatriotes dans la lutte nationale contre les intentions despotiques et anti-nationales de la Russie.

Voilà pourquoi les Arméniens du Caucase n'ont pas peur des prétentions du Gouvernement Russe. Ils ont un grand appui au dehors. Leur religion même, Chismatique et Catholique, leur est d'un grand secours dans cette lutte.

La Russie comprend bien leur situation et ne les touche pas aussi fort que les Géorgiens. Ces derniers sont très-malheureux, parce qu'ils ne sont soutenus ni par aucun moyen d'action qui leur vienne en aide du dehors, ni par leur religion.

Ils sont presque tous Orthodoxes comme les Russes. En ce moment ils sont complétement entre les mains du Gouvernement Russe, qui tente par l'intimidation d'anéantir leur nationalité.

Dans cette lutte désespérée contre la force formidable et brutale du Gouvernement Russe, le peuple Géorgien n'a aucun point d'appui du dehors où on pourrait protester à haute voix contre tout réglement et disposition despotique qui tendrait à restreindre le développement naturel de l'esprit du peuple Géorgien.

La seule espérance que nourrisse le peuple Géorgien dans son cœur c'est que la guerre sera déclarée en ce moment par l'Angleterre à la Russie, qui est affaiblie militairement et financièrement, et qu'elle aura pour résultat la fondation du Royaume uni des Géorgiens et des Arméniens, lequel sera placé en Trans-Caucasie comme une barrière contre les dangereuses intentions futures de la Russie.

Cela a déjà eu lieu aux temps des Mèdes et des Perses, et devrait être renouvelé par suite de la logique des événements.

Si la situation actuelle aboutissait à une paix durable et si le peuple Géorgien n'obtenait aucune garantie pour son existance nationale pendant cette longue paix, la Russie parviendra par la colonisation et par d'autres réglements rigoureux à se fortifier dans la Trans-Caucasie de telle manière qu'il y aura péril pour les intérêts de l'Angleterre et même pour ceux de l'Europe entière.

Depuis l'an 1855 le peuple Géorgien a commencé à se réveiller. Toute la jeunesse s'est mise à travailler et à faire revivre l'idée nationale dans l'esprit du peuple par la littérature et par une propagande pacifique.

Dans la dernière guerre, à cause du recrutement qui a été mis en vigueur pour la première fois par le Gouvernement Russe et à cause d'autres réglements non moins rigoureux, toute la population Géorgienne a été très-irritée et a commencée à songer à son affranchissement, si des circonstances du dehors lui venaient en aide.

Afin de conjurer le futur péril dont l'Europe pourrait être menacée, il serait nécessaire de fonder en dehors du Caucase, pendant la longue paix présumée, un établissement qui donnerait au peuple Géorgien l'assurance que l'attention de l'Angleterre est portée sur sa position.

L'intérêt même de l'Angleterre exige qu'il gagne, par un petit sacrifice, la sympathie du peuple Géorgien, qui, s'il devient indépendant, sauvegardera toujours l'intérêt de l'Angleterre en Orient contre la Russie.

Mon départ *incognito* de mon pays a aussi pour but, dans le cas d'un arrangement pacifique en Europe, de prier le Gouvernement Anglais de nous prêter quelque assistance pour fonder l'établissement en question. Tous mes compatriotes avancés et intelligents savent parfaitement que j'ai passé la frontière dans ce but, et plus le Gouvernement Britannique prêtera son attention à la mission que je remplis, plus il gagnera leur reconnaissance et leur fidelité.

Pour fonder le susdit établissement il serait nécessaire de débourser chaque année 2,000*l.* sterling; ce serait l'intérêt d'un capital de 70,000*l.* sterling dépensé annuellement sans retour.

Mais pour que le Gouvernement Anglais ne perde rien, il pourrait, s'il le préfère, prêter 80,000*l.* sterling remboursables en quarante et un ans.

Les premières quinze années seraient exceptées d'intérêt, et à partir de ce terme, jusqu'à la quarante-unième année, l'établissement paierait pour cent l'an en amortissant la somme prêtée par l'hypothèque de tous les biens acquis à l'établissement avec la somme prêtée par le Gouvernement Anglais.

Les affaires de l'établissement national Géorgien seraient mises sous le contrôle d'un agent du Gouvernement Anglais.

L'établissement devrait avoir pour résidence Constantinople, ou, mieux encore, Trébizonde, comme étant situé le plus près du Caucase.

Le programme d'action de l'établissement national Géorgien serait le suivant :—

1. Le choix comme agents d'hommes courageux et intelligents parmi les populations Chrétiennes et Mahométanes dans toute l'étendue du territoire Caucasien, afin qu'ils puissent produire un mouvement national et simultané au moment favorable.

2. L'édition d'un journal en langues Française et Géorgienne pour s'attacher toutes les populations indigènes dans une démarche commune, et dénoncer à l'Europe tous les abus qui seront commis par le Gouvernement Russe contre les peuples Caucasiens.

3. La publication des manuels de toute sorte de branches de science en langues indigènes, et celle des documents et des annales historiques Géorgiennes, qui se trouvent dans le pays en abondance extraordinaire.

4. Les recherches philologiques, historiques, et archéologiques dans tous les provinces Géorgiennes chez les Kartwelys, Lazes, Suannes, et Mingrelys.

5. L'assistance à toute personne qui se distinguera par ses capacités, et qui se consacrera à des travaux particuliers.

Si le Gouvernement accepte ce projet, je pourrais entreprendre de le réaliser; et afin d'avoir plus de liberté d'action, et plus de sécurité contre les persécutions du Gouvernement Russe je désirerais dans ce cas obtenir, s'il est possible, la nationalité Britannique.

Le 4 Juillet, 1878.

(Signé) G. ZERETELY.

No. 217.

Consul R. Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 3. Political.)

My Lord, *Varna, July 8*, 1878.

YOUR Lordship is aware of the extraordinary numbers of Mussulmans, men, women, and children, who, during the late war, were driven from their homes in the districts invaded by the Russians, in consequence of the brutal treatment they received from Bulgars and Cossacks.

Many died from the intense and cruel sufferings to which they where exposed, and the greater part of the survivors—about 300,000—managed to reach Shumla, where they were relieved by the authorities and the Turkish Compassionate Fund.

A number of these refugees went to Constantinople, and on the conclusion of the armistice many returned to their homes within the Turkish line of demarcation, leaving about 200,000 from districts within the Russian line.

Of these a moderate number in despair ventured to return, and it was hoped that by degrees most of them would soon be at their homes; but on the return to Rustchuk from St. Petersburgh of Prince Dondukoff Korsakoff (in the beginning of June) this official notified to General Fazli Pasha, of Shumla, that "as the Porte had not carried out the provisions of the Treaty of San Stefano as regards the evacuation of the fortresses Shumla and Varna, he could not allow the Mussulman refugees to return to their homes within the Russian line of demarcation."

Against this apparently cruel act Fazli Pasha could only protest, and as the refugees were suffering intensely, many dying, from the inability of the authorities to afford them sufficient relief, their resources being nearly exhausted, I brought the matter quickly to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, who reported it to your Lordship.

Some fifteen days afterwards the Russian authorities at Rasgrad, Eski Djuma, and Osmun Bazar, pressingly urged Fazli Pasha to send all the refugees to their homes, promising to protect them *en route* and at their destinations.

Hearing of this I went to Shumla, and having a balance at my disposal from the Turkish Compassionate Fund I arranged with the General and the other authorities to grant to each destitute family a sum sufficient to take them home where their crops were ready for reaping.

The repatriation of these unfortunate people consequently commenced, and I was under the impression that all was going on well when, to my surprise, yesterday morning

I received a telegram from General Fazli Pasha, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, and by which your Lordship will see the value of the assurances of protection so lavishly sent to the General.

What the fate of these people will be if they remain at Shumla in such numbers (nearly 200,000), and many without means of existence, I am afraid to say.

Having received other information from Shumla on the subject confirming the General's telegrams, and as I shall only be able to communicate with Constantinople on Wednesday next, I yesterday transmitted a telegram to Consul-General White, of Bucharest, to be forwarded on in cipher to your Lordship, and copy of which I have further the honour to inclose, in hopes your Lordship would get such orders sent quickly to the Russian authorities in this province as would enable these unfortunate refugees to escape being kept at Shumla without the means of existence, and to return to their homes before their crops, not already siezed by the Bulgars, are spoilt for want of reaping.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 217.

General Fazli Pasha to Consul R. Reade.

(Telegraphic.) *Shumla, le 6 Juillet*, 1878.

SUR la Proclamation donnée de la part des Russes, et après votre avis que nous sommes tombés d'accord, nous faisions partir, groupe en groupe, les réfugiés residant à Shumla pour Rasgrad, Djuma, et autres destinations; mais les Russes et Bulgares maltraitant les réfugiés, la plupart de ceux-ci retournent ici, et ceux qui ne sont pas encore partis, voyant cet état de choses, sont obligés de renoncer à leur départ. La cause principale de l'abus commis de la part de Russes et Bulgares est d'effrayer les réfugiés et prendre possession de leurs récoltes. Il résulte d'après les rapports que je reçois chaque jour qu'on commet les mêmes abus à ceux qui sont rapatriés déjà depuis longtemps, pour les obliger à abandonner leurs foyers pour profiter de leurs récoltes.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Commandant-in-chef,
(Signé) FAZLI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 217.

Consul R. Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.

(Telegraphic.) *Varna, July 7*, 1878.

ABOUT 200,000 Mussulman refugees from districts in Russian occupation still in the Shumla area. 10,000 to 15,000 utterly destitute. Sight very heartrending. Government resources nearly exhausted. Turkish Compassionate Fund also. Russians recently invited their return home, promising protection. Many left, but were forced to retrace steps from cruel treatment by Bulgars and no notice from Russians. Many have already succumbed, and, as their standing crops, not already seized by Bulgars, require immediate reaping, if they are not quickly enabled to repatriate safely, and Bulgar maltreatment not arrested, very many more must perish, and loss of crops must entail eventual famine. Case very urgent. I am reliably informed that Bulgars are daily and cruelly maltreating Mussulmans in every direction, and Russians do not interfere. If temporary occupation of new province is by Russians alone, all say and believe that none but Bulgars can remain, and many thousands must inevitably be ruined.

No. 218.

Consul R. Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 4. Political.)

My Lord, *Varna, July 13*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed copy of a despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, relative to the rumoured evacuation of Shumla and Varna.

The contingencies mentioned therein may not occur, but I have heard what I have said in so many well-informed quarters, that I considered it my duty to report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 218.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Varna, July 11, 1878.

DURING the past few days the rumoured forcible evacuation of Shumla and Varna has been the general topic of conversation amongst not only the Turks, but also the Greeks, all of whom are said to be in a great state of excitement and irascibility on the subject.

It is said that the Turks in general vow that they will resist the occupation by the Russians and Bulgars to the utmost of their power; and the Greeks assert that they will not give up either their churches or their houses, against which they will stand firm.

The Greeks, as your Excellency is aware, are most bitter against the Bulgars and also the Russians; and they have six churches here, the half of which, at least, will be claimed by the Bulgars, supported by the Russians, as has occurred in other places.

Both nationalities (Turks and Greeks) are now on terms they never were on before; indeed, only yesterday afternoon I myself saw the Cadi with the Greek Archbishop, whose guest he was, and with whom he appeared to be on the most intimate terms.

I hear that precisely the same feeling exists in Shumla and the whole of both cazas.

I am further told that many of the Circassians who, after the signing of the Treaty of San Stefano, took their families over to Asia, have returned and are roaming about the country as before. I hear that their number is about 15,000, and that they are ready also to join against the Russians.

Whether all this will occur or not, of course can only be determined when the critical moment arrives; but having perceived considerable apprehension amongst the British subjects and other foreigners here, I have deemed it my duty to inform your Excellency thereof.

Should, therefore, orders be sent here to evacuate Shumla and Varna, I feel it my duty to request your Excellency to cause a vessel-of-war to be stationed here to [illegible] the Majesty's subjects, [illegible] authorities possibly might not exhibit much zeal in the execution of any orders they may receive to evacuate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

P. S. Several of the foreign Consular officers here have spoken to me of the [illegible] of the [illegible] of the [illegible].

R. R.

No. 219.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

No. 363(A.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 21, 1878.

COUNT MUNSTER called upon me on Saturday, the 20th instant.

His Excellency wished to know what course Her Majesty's Government proposed to take with regard to Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin, inasmuch as his Government had been pressed by that of Greece to address a representation to the Porte upon that subject.

I told his Excellency that as soon as the case contemplated by the XXIVth Article of the Treaty had arisen, Great Britain would, in conformity with the liberty reserved

to her by that Article, offer her mediation, but that until we had received authoritative information that the two Powers had been unable to agree, the condition under which the offer of mediation was contemplated by the Article would not have arisen.

His Excellency appeared to think it probable that the German Government would follow the same course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 220.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 172.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 21, 1878.

M. DELYANNI, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, called on me on Friday, the 19th instant, to urge Her Majesty's Government to instruct Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to press on the Porte the recommendation of the Congress of Berlin with respect to the rectifications of the frontiers.

I stated to him that as soon as the case contemplated by the XXIVth Article of the Treaty had arisen, Great Britain would, in conformity with the liberty reserved to her by that Article, offer her mediation, but that until we had received authoritative information that the two Powers had been unable to agree, the condition under which the offer of mediation was contemplated by the Article would not have arisen.

At the same time I called M. Delyanni's attention to the rumour of military preparations on the part of Greece, and warned him of the great danger to which Greece would be exposed if she were to undertake any hostile action against the Porte.

He did not absolutely disavow any such intention, but attributed to popular pressure the attitude of his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 221.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 615.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, July 16, 1878.

AT an interview I had to-day with M. de Giers at Tsarko Seloe, I spoke to his Excellency on the subject of the refusal of Prince Doudoukoff Korsakoff, the Military Governor of Bulgaria, to recognize the foreign Consular Agents, and I referred specially to his reception of the Consular Body at Philippopolis on the 4th June, as reported in Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert's despatch to Mr. Layard of the 7th June, copy of which was inclosed to me in your Lordship's despatch, No. 397, of the 10th instant.

M. de Giers informed me at once that the question was arranged, and that on the receipt of a report from Prince Labanoff he had, by the Emperor's order, sent instructions to Prince Doudoukoff Korsakoff to recognize the foreign Consuls in Bulgaria as officially accredited Agents.

His Excellency said that the Prince had erroneously supposed that until the final decision of the Congress, the foreign Consular Body in Bulgaria had no official status. He had now been informed of his error, and his Excellency therefore trusted that no further difficulties would arise on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 222.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 650.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, July 17, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the inclosed summaries of the opinions expressed by the Russian press on the Anglo-Turkish Convention drawn up by Mr. Michel.

I may observe that these opinions are those formed on first receiving the intelligence of the intended occupation of Cyprus by England. I am inclined to believe that the indignation at first felt has very considerably abated, and that the feeling of injured national pride is giving place to a hope that it may conduce to the establishment of more friendly relations between England and Russia, and thereby contribute to lay the foundation of a solid and durable peace.

I must, however, invite your Lordship's attention to an article in the "Golos" which says that England is alone vulnerable to Russia in India, and it is on the side of India that Russia must henceforth concentrate her military measures against the "ally of Turkey."

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 222.

Opinions of Russian Press on Agreement between Turkey and England.

THE "Golos" considers that the occupation of Cyprus by England is a seizure of Turkish territory under plausible pretexts, and that it may lead to a general war; inasmuch as Turkey, encouraged by the probable support and stipulated protection of England, may refuse to carry out the decisions of the Congress.

The "Novoe Vremia" is of opinion that the conversion of Asia Minor into an English Colony, and the Island of Cyprus into a first class naval station for the English fleet, permanently destroys the balance of power of Western Europe in the Mediterranean, practically delivers Egypt over to England, and establishes her supremacy over the highways leading to the distant East.

The [illegible] expresses great indignation on the subject of the agreement arrived at between England and Turkey, and declares that henceforward the position of Turkey will be that of an English vassal. The independence and integrity of Turkey as formerly guaranteed by Europe it now declares to have become a myth.

The "Exchange Gazette" considers the understanding arrived at between England and Turkey as a masterly stroke of policy on the part of Lord Beaconsfield, and enumerates at length the important advantages, both political and commercial, which the occupation of Cyprus will give to England.

In general, the Russian press is very outspoken on the subject of the results arrived at by the Berlin Congress, and the Slavophil organs vigorously express their disapprobation and disappointment, and indirectly blame the Government for the humiliation which Russia has suffered at the hands of Europe.

Public opinion, so far as it may be said to exist in Russia, exhibits astonishment rather than indignation at the occupation of Cyprus by England. Admiration is expressed at Lord Beaconsfield's superior diplomatic skill, though this sentiment is mingled with a feeling of injured national pride at the defeat of their own diplomacy. The public is generally only too anxious for peace, and has long prepared itself for the absolute necessity of making concessions to Europe under the San Stefano Preliminary Treaty.

It may be safely said that peace is desired above all other considerations.

St. Petersburgh, July 12, 1878.

(Signed) JOHN MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 222.

Substance of Article in the "Golos" of July 5, 1878.

(Translation.)

TAKING into consideration the various disadvantages which accrue to Russia by the new condition of things created in the Balkan Peninsula by the Berlin Congress, we, Russians, cannot view the decision arrived at by the British Government otherwise than with the greatest satisfaction. Lord Beaconsfield has untied our hands, and has led us out of the very difficult position in which we should have been placed in regard to England by an amicable settlement of the Congress.

Had Lord Beaconsfield not have concluded a defensive alliance with Turkey, we

should have been compelled to acknowledge the fiction of the perfectly friendly understanding arrived at at Berlin. Notwithstanding the palpability of the hostile relations which must henceforward exist between Russia and England in regard to the Turkish question, we should not have possessed any material pretext for adopting the necessary measures against allowing such relations to bear consequences most unfavourable for us. Lord Beaconsfield has created this pretext. He has placed matters so, that henceforward we not only have the right, but are compelled to assume openly before Europe, without secrecy and without disguise, a defensive attitude towards England.

Nobody, of course, will think of denying that the decisions of the Congress have placed Turkey in a position that precludes the possibility of any friendly relations whatsoever in the future between the Porte and the Russian Government. It will be quite natural, and in fact legitimate on the part of the Turks, to cherish dreams of revenge, and to seek opportunities for avenging the defeat inflicted on them. We must, therefore, be always in readiness for a fresh war with Turkey.

But Turkey has concluded a defensive alliance with England, which guarantees the [illegible] integrity of her Asiatic possessions. Consequently, in any war against Turkey, we shall henceforward have to meet England as the ally of our enemy. It will be understood that such a perspective necessitates the adoption of precautionary measures. England is alone vulnerable points in India, and, therefore, it is on the Indian frontiers that the whole of our defensive measures must be henceforth concentrated against the ally of Turkey. We can and we must convert our Central Asian possessions into a formidable base of operations for ever possible and ever probable military operations against England. India becomes for us a natural object for war, and Europe, whom Lord Beaconsfield has so triumphantly convinced of the disinterestedness of English championship of European interests will, as a matter of course, fully understand all the precautionary measures taken by us in consequence of the conclusion of a defensive Anglo-Turkish alliance.

No. 223.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 652.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July* 17, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a résumé of the opinions of the Russian press on the results of the Berlin Congress, as reproduced by the "Agence Russe."

I have to observe that the Russian "St. Petersburgh Gazette" follows in the wake of the "Golos" in noticing the importance for Russia to give her attention henceforth to the Asiatic [illegible] ments of the army in Turkestan will greatly assist.

In addition to these articles in the "Agence Russe," which are especially intended for foreign circulation, I have [illegible] very remarkable article from the "Exchange Gazette," translated by Mr. Michell, which, unfortunately, has not found a place in the columns of the "Agence Russe."

This article, in bold and sarcastic language, addresses a warning to the Slavophil portion of the Russian public against the renewal of a policy which has cost Russia so dearly, with such insignificant results.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 223.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

L'OPINION DU CONGRÈS.—On lit dans le "Golos":—

"Le Traité de Paix est signé. Depuis hier la Porte se trouve sous l'obligation d'en observer toutes les clauses. Celles-ci sont en partie connues du public; cependant la publication du texte officiel permettra de dissiper certaines interprétations erronées et donnera le moyen de dégager toute la moralité que renferme l'œuvre éminent du Congrès. Ce que l'on sait déjà c'est que la Porte Ottomane est appelée à prouver dans un délai rapproché qu'elle sait apprécier les procédés employés à

son égard par l'Europe. Son programme d'action est, on ne peut mieux, exposé. La Porte doit se convaincre qu'il n'y a plus à s'y dérober. L'Europe attend une prompte réalisation de ses vœux, pour ne pas dire de ses ordres. Les troupes Turques devront bientôt évacuer Schumla et Varna. Batoum devra être incessamment remis à la Russie : de même tout le territoire destiné à jouir de la nouvelle organisation administrative devra sans délai voir se retirer les troupes Ottomanes. De la prompte et finale exécution de ces mesures ressortira la preuve irréfragable de la bonne volonté dont la Turquie se prétend animée. A partir de ce moment seulement disparaîtront les risques de nouveaux conflits à propos des complications Orientales. . . . . Les félicitations adressées par le Prince Héréditaire d'Allemagne aux membres du Congrès relativement à l'œuvre de paix qui est sortie de leurs sages délibérations, dénotent que l'Allemagne croit sincèrement à la conservation de la paix, et n'entendrait pas que la Turquie vint à troubler ces espérances. On ne sait encore de quelle nature sont les précautions prises pour s'assurer de la bonne exécution des décisions du Congrès; mais ce qui est positif c'est que la Russie est mise en situation de faire entendre raison à la Porte si toutefois il en était besoin. Quant aux autres intéressés dans la question d'Orient, il ne saurait surgir de leur part aucune difficulté. La Roumanie a pris le sage parti d'accepter ce qu'on lui a alloué. La Serbie s'est résignée aux événements. La Grèce sait qu'elle est libre d'entrer en arrangement direct avec la Turquie. Donc, tout dépend de la conduite que la Turquie va assumer ou plutôt de celle qui lui sera soufflée par son alliée l'Angleterre."

Le "Nouveau Temps" fait les réflexions suivantes :—

"Ce qui ressort de plus clair de la politique Britannique, si l'on en juge d'après le dernier incident de l'Ile de Chypre, c'est que nos hommes d'Etat ont eu le don de prescience en cherchant depuis longtemps à combattre l'influence Anglaise en Orient, et en demandant que la question si grave des Détroits soit élucidée. Depuis 1840, l'Angleterre se rapproche de plus en plus du Bosphore et des Dardanelles. En 1877, ses vaisseaux y entrèrent en maîtres. Ce n'est pas un sentiment de vaine jalousie qui dictait à la Russie la politique à laquelle elle se tient, mais bien celui de sa propre dignité. Elle ne peut souhaiter tomber à la merci de l'Angleterre. Or, c'est ce qui pourrait arriver éventuellement si, maintenant que la Grande Bretagne est notre voisine si rapprochée en Orient, nous nous endormions dans une fausse sécurité. Imitons l'exemple que nous donnent les Anglais : aussitôt qu'ils posent le pied quelque part pour prendre possession, ils élèvent en même temps des fortifications. A Chypre déjà les travaux de fortification sont commencés. C'est un avertissement pour nous."

Traitant le même sujet la "Gazette (Russe) de St. Pétersbourg" s'exprime comme suit :—

"A défaut de la Turquie nous avons maintenant à nos frontières d'Asie un ennemi autrement acharné : l'Angleterre. Ce que l'on pressentait depuis longtemps s'est affirmé par la politique d'extorsion de l'Angleterre; ce n'est plus une Puissance Européenne, mais un Etat profondément et essentiellement Asiatique. Désormais elle s'inspirera exclusivement de ses intérêts en Asie, ce qui crée à la Russie le devoir d'abandonner sa politique antérieure qui, soit dit entre parenthèses, a manqué de précision. Il lui faut se souvenir que l'Angleterre fait ses conquêtes sans avoir besoin de tirer un coup de fusil, sans débourser de l'argent outre mesure. L'exemple est bon, il convient de le suivre à l'occasion. Là-bas, en Asie, nous ne sommes liés par aucune considération traditionnelle; il est temps d'arborer la politique des intérêts Russes et de lui assurer le succès. Au premier plan se présente d'abord la nécessité de conserver à notre commerce et à notre industrie en Asie la sécurité qui leur est indispensable. C'est de suprême urgence en vue de ce fait que les Anglais viennent de se poser en chefs du monde Musulman. Les peuples Mahométans de l'Asie Mineure, n'ayant eu qu'à se féliciter de l'influence exercée par la Russie, nourrissent à son égard des sentiments profonds de reconnaissance et de réel attachement. Mais il ne faudrait que cela servit à endormir notre vigilance surtout lorsqu'il s'agit de nationalités promptes à céder aux excitations du fanatisme religieux et politique. Donc, il est de la plus haute importance pour nous de concentrer davantage nos efforts en Asie et de veiller à nos frontières sud-ouest, but auquel concourrera on ne peut mieux la création des trois nouveaux détachements adjoints à notre armée du Turkestan. Certains de nos confrères ont pris occasion de cette mesure pour prêcher une campagne dans l'Inde. (?) Nos soldats auront

une autre mission autrement sérieuse et importante à remplir, celle de protéger nos intérêts industriels et commerciaux en Asie ; qui, si nous n'y prenions pas garde, pourraient être menacés un jour par les Anglais."

Le "Monde Russe" dit de son côté :—

"L'Angleterre a su, sous le masque d'une grande sollicitude, d'un grand intérêt pour les affaires générales de l'Europe, faire ses petites affaires personelles en s'emparant de l'Ile de Chypre, qu'elle fortifie actuellement. Tout comme l'Autriche, usant de la même dissimulation et des mêmes procédés, s'est assurée, sans courir aucun risque, de deux superbes provinces—la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine. L'Angleterre et l'Autriche étant satisfaites toutes les deux, le reste de l'Europe ne compte plus. Voilà où a conduit l'espèce de servilité des Représentants des autres Puissances vis-à-vis du Congrès. Le Ministre de France, M. Waddington, a eu la naïveté de qualifier la proposition du Comte Andrassy au sujet de l'occupation de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine de mesure de sécurité Européenne, ne prévoyant pas qu'une autre occupation se préparait dans l'ombre, celle-ci portant ouvertement atteinte à ces intérêts Européens qu'on a invoqués tant de fois, on le voit maintenant, avec hypocrisie. L'organe de M. Gambetta a peine a dissimuler le dépit que lui cause la surprise ménagée par le Comte de Beaconsfield. Au lieu de chercher à atténuer les conséquences de cette action au point de vue des intérêts de la France, la "République Française" ferait mieux de convenir que sa propagande en faveur de la politique Turcophile du Cabinet Beaconsfield a été récompensée comme elle pouvait l'être seulement. Qu'est-ce que la France à gagné à faire cause commune avec Londres et Vienne contre la Russie? Elle n'a pas conquis de nouvelles amitiés et s'est aliéné les anciennes ; elle a perdu une belle occasion à jouer un grand rôle. Si elle avait su tenir avec fermeté le drapeau de la paix cela aurait mieux valu. Elle a manqué à toutes ses traditions en ne suivant pas la Russie dans sa politique de rénovation de l'Orient.

Journaux Russes d'Aujourd'hui.—Le "Golos" dit qu'il ne faut pas se dissimuler que le Traité signé à Berlin est une cruelle déception pour la nation Russe, qu'il engage cependant à supporter avec calme la dure épreuve qui lui est imposée par les événements. Le patriotisme, ajoute le "Golos," ne nous a certes pas fait défaut dans la lutte qui vient d'aboutir à un résultat aussi négatif, mais le patriotisme ne suffit pour accomplir les grandes œuvres, il y a d'autres qualités indispensables que nous ne possédons qu'à un degré insuffisant ; il y aurait de la sagesse à les compléter pendant la période de calme qui nous est réservée.

Le "Nouveau Temps" dit, ironiquement, que tout nous convie maintenant au repos à la paix. C'est la péroration du Prince de Bismarck, mais le repos conduit aussi à la méditation. Si le Prince Gortchakow, en faisant sa proposition à l'égard des garanties à assurer pour la stricte exécution des décrets du Congrès, a eu en vue de sonder les intentions des Puissances pour le cas de certaines éventualités qui surgiraient du fait des Turcs, il a dû se persuader que ces intentions sont des moins chaleureuses."

Inclosure 2 in No. 225.

Substance of Article in the "Exchange Gazette" of $\frac{26th}{July}$ 1878.

THE "Exchange Gazette" of the $\frac{25th}{July}$, 1878, addresses the following remarks with reference to the results of the Berlin Congress to its Slavophil contemporaries.

"The results of the Berlin Congress may now be regarded as completely defined. The Turkish Empire is divided into two parts: the northern part of the Balkan Peninsula, with a road leading to the Ægean Sea, comes under the protectorate or into the possession of Austria; the southern part, together with the Turkish possessions in Asia Minor, under the protectorate or into the possession of England. In order to maintain a closer supervision and to increase her power over the Turks, England has occupied a naval station on the Island of Cyprus. On Friday next Lord Beaconsfield is expected to return to London, where an ovation awaits him. A similar reception will probably fall to the lot of Count Andrassy on his return to Vienna. Thus finishes a war which has cost us 100,000 lives or more of our best soldiers, and milliards of roubles irretrievably squandered.

"Are you satisfied, ye pitiable champions, you who have laboured so strenuously in exciting bellicose passions, and devoted yourselves to what you term in your charlatan phraseology the "uplifting of the national spirit?" No, you are not satisfied. You now attack the Russian Delegates at the Congress, or rather one of them, who, in your opinion, is guilty of those concessions which Russia has made at the Congress. You strive to assure the remaining small group of your illiterate readers that if a certain somebody of your election had been dispatched to the Congress the results for Russia would have been different.

"All this is false and nothing but charlatanism. You disseminate the same falsehoods now that you propagated when you assured your blind followers that all Russia was animated by an irrepressible martial phrenzy. Your present attack on the Russian Plenipotentiaries at Berlin is merely employed by you for the purpose of [illegible] idea.

"The Russian delegates at the Congress reaped only what you yourselves sowed. There was nothing else for them to do. The question was put firmly and categorically. It was necessary either to accede or to fight with England, Austria, and Turkey, who were firmly united and apparently ready to act in concert with each other according to a pre-arranged plan.

"Was it, in your opinion, necessary to determine on a hopeless war, the result of which would undoubtedly have entailed on us conditions of peace totally different in [illegible] such a new war both by sea and land?

"Is it with the Turkestan detachment that an expedition to India is to be undertaken or with the three newly-purchased vessels of the volunteer fleet that you [illegible] constructed and to be armed.

"But your bellicose pathos is now being valued at its proper worth by the general public. Your seditious chatter has wearied every one and no faith is any longer attached to it.

"There will be no war but a peace, and one in all probability of a solid and [illegible] (*se recueillir*), and this time, let us hope, our concentration will be more energetic and permanent, and that it will not be diverted from the direction once adopted and indicated by history. The best security that our concentration shall be fruitful and beneficial will be abstention on our part from all possible interference in the affairs of others, and from all attempts to secure a foreign influence and to exercise pressure abroad. We know now what the attempt to exercise our influence abroad has cost us, and we should carefully avoid such a policy in future. We have everything we require at home. Nobody will invade or molest us. Let us, therefore, labour for our [illegible] and may God grant them every blessing."

No. 221.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 429.)

My Lord, *Berlin, July* 17, 1878.

MR. JAMES LONG called at the Embassy, after your Lordship's departure, to say that he was about to return to Roumelia to continue his work, and endeavour to find means of saving the lives and utilizing the labour of the thousands of refugees perishing miserably from want of funds. Mr. Long was anxious to know whether any assistance could be obtained through Her Majesty's Government; and also whether the labour of some of the refugees might not be profitably employed in Cyprus.

Mr. Long leaves to night, and intends to place himself in communication with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 225.

Consul-General Crowe to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 21. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Berlin, July* 18, 1878.

THE signatures of the Treaty of Berlin are hardly dry, and already there are symptoms that Austria is negotiating to secure commercial advantages from the position which she has acquired in the Turkish States. It appears that there are financiers now at work in Berlin to float new enterprises, in the shape of railways intended to unite the net of lines running to the southern Austrian border on the one hand, and from Salonica, in the direction of Bosnia and Servia, on the other. It is difficult to obtain precise information on the subject as yet, but it is stated generally that the Austrian Government has already given orders to finish the line from Novi, on the Save, to Banjaluka, in Bosnia; and it is positively affirmed that before leaving Berlin Count Andrassy signed a Convention with Servia for the extension of railways and the furtherance of commerce, by which the whole net of lines intended to unite Mitrovitza with Nisch and Bazjasch would become the monopoly of Austrian companies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. A. CROWE.

No. 226.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 680.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 21, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 19th instant, Porte promises to take immediate measures for removing convicts from Cyprus. They will be sent to Tripoli, in Barbary.

No. 227.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 681.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 21, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 19th instant, Grand Vizier informs me that the Council has determined to adhere to its demand that Austria shall enter into a Convention with Turkey before occupying Bosnia, and that its terms shall be in conformity with the instructions given to the Turkish Plenipotentiaries, which are, in substance, that the sovereign rights of the Sultan shall be fully recognized, that the duration of the occupation shall be limited to six or twelve months, that the Turkish and Austrian Commanders shall come to an understanding as to positions to be occupied by the Austrian troops, and that the civil administration shall remain in the hands of the Turkish functionaries. According to Grand Vizier, Count Andrassy has declined to enter into any written engagement to guarantee Turkey against attacks from Servia and Montenegro, merely stating verbally that an understanding with Turkey for the occupation of Bosnia will virtually amount to such a guarantee.

The Council maintains that if the Porte were to agree to what Count Andrassy requires, the Sultan would be ceding two provinces to a country with which he has not been at war, and which has consequently no right of conquest, and that nothing specific is given in return; and that Sultan could not justify to his people such a cession, but would place himself in a very critical position by making it.

No. 228.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 682.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 21, 1878.*

COUNCIL held yesterday decided against rectification of the Greek frontiers. Turkish military authorities maintain that the line suggested at the Congress affords no defensible frontier, and is calculated to lead to constant misunderstandings with Greece, and to eventual complications.

According to a despatch from Turkish Minister at Athens, Greek Government does not wish to come to a friendly understanding with the Porte, but would prefer bringing on a war with Turkey, in which it believes it would have the sympathy and support of the European Powers, which may not obtain in the end a much more considerable extent of territory.

For this purpose it is preparing to send 30,000 men and ten batteries of Krupp guns across the frontiers on the pretence of carrying out mandate of the Congress and not for hostile purposes. Should Turks resist, war will be the consequence, and the Greek Government will seek to throw the responsibility on the Porte.

As the Porte seems resolutely determined to resist extension of Greek frontiers, would it not be possible to prevail upon the Greeks to accept instead the Island of Crete, in order to prevent war? I am not certain that the Porte would agree to this, though I am inclined to believe it would; but it might be worth while to make an attempt to effect [illegible]

No. 229.

[illegible]

(No. 683.) Confidential.
(Telegraphic.) [illegible] 1878.

RUSTEM PASHA, Governor of the Lebanon, tells me that he is a candidate for the Governorship of new Province of Oriental Roumelia, and has asked me for my support. The choice is very limited, and I do not know whether a better man could be found. He is a Catholic, which would be of advantage. It would be very undesirable, I think, to name a Bulgarian, who would probably become a Russian tool. The Bulgarians would object to a Greek. Our Consul-General and the foreign Consuls in Syria speak well of the administration of the Lebanon by above-mentioned Pasha, who has had experience of Government, has shown his faithfulness to the Porte, and has had a good deal of experience of Europe. Will you let me know whether, in your opinion, the [illegible]

No. 230.

Mr. Macdowell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, July 21, 1878.*

REPORTS published by foreign newspapers relating to the agitation are exaggerated. Meeting held to-day in Rome, though numerously attended, passed off quietly.

No. 231.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, July 22, 1878.*

I RECEIVED your two telegrams of yesterday.

No. 232.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, July 22, 1878.*

I RECEIVED two telegrams yesterday from Captain Napier, in the first, dated 19th, he says he proposes to leave Dereges, but would refer again to Government of India, as it seems unadvisable to proceed whilst invasion is imminent. He suggests that a Commission be appointed on ground of humanity and policy to prevent Akhal fighting, or of a Commissioner himself and a border peasant Chief as more likely to succeed. Acting Persian Minister has informed me twice that Persian Government will not move in the matter, and that Shah would, in fact, prefer the Russians to the Akhal Turcomans as neighbours.

In the second telegram of the 20th he says:

"News received from Boojnoord that large column from Krasnavodsk reached Izdalik fifteen days ago. I proceed to Mazaftez or Koochan, but shall not enter Akhal [illegible] farther than Burma."

No. 233.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 22, 1878, 7·25 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 682 of yesterday, Her Majesty's Government think it would be premature to suggest cession of Crete in exchange for Congress line.

You would probably be unsuccessful, or if successful, Greece would certainly take Crete first, and then go on asking for Thessaly; and thus Her Majesty's Government would appear to have acted disloyally in recommending a cession which would not produce tranquillity.

At a later period they may have an opportunity of offering their particular mediation with advantage. At present it will be better to adhere to our position as one of the six Powers who reserved to themselves to offer a common mediation under Article XXIV.

No. 234.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 22, 1878, 7·30 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government fear that both as to Greece and Austria the Porte is preparing trouble for itself. But Her Majesty's Government are not bound in either case to exercise compulsion upon the Porte. If asked the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, you should say that a period of repose is of primary necessity to the Porte, and that, therefore, the Porte will do wisely to seek a pacific arrangement on the bases indicated by the Congress. But, if the Porte sustains its refusal, we cannot employ any other means of obtaining its compliance beyond friendly advice and good offices.

No. 235.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 22, 1878, 8 P.M.*

I FORWARD to you a telegram received from Sir H. Elliot, and in doing so suggest that you should take an opportunity of informing the Porte that Mehemet Ali did what was in his power to exclude Sophia from Bulgaria, and is only responsible for the statement that the second line was the strongest.

No. 236.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 22, 1878, 8 P.M.*

AFTER the Treaty of Berlin had been signed I spoke to Count Schouvaloff with reference to the withdrawal of the Russian army from the positions they occupied near Constantinople. He assured me then that it should take place immediately, and that there was in all quarters the most earnest desire that it should commence without delay. But he promised to press the matter upon the attention of his Government immediately upon his arrival at St. Petersburgh.

The Russian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me to-day, and I urged upon him the importance of fulfilling without delay the promise which I had received from Count Schouvaloff with respect to the immediate withdrawal of the Russian troops from the neighbourhood of Constantinople. He said that he had heard nothing upon the subject, and appeared to doubt whether the movement was likely to be undertaken as promptly as Count Schouvaloff had imagined.

He promised to convey to St. Petersburgh the anxiety of Her Majesty's Government that no unnecessary delay should intervene.

No. 237.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 826.
Sir,

Foreign Office, July 22, 1878.

IN the event of trouble resulting to the Porte, as Her Majesty's Government fears may be the case from the line of policy which it seems inclined to pursue both as regards Greece and Austria, Her Majesty's Government are under no obligation, in either case, to bring any pressure to bear upon the Ottoman Government.

I have to instruct your Excellency, in the event of questions being put to you as to the views of Her Majesty's Government on this subject, to state that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the Porte requires, as a matter of primary importance, a certain period of rest and repose, and that, with this object in view, the wisest course for the Ottoman Government to pursue would be to endeavour to effect a pacific solution of its difficulties on the bases indicated by the Congress of Berlin; but if the Porte perseveres in its refusal of such an arrangement, Her Majesty's Government cannot have recourse to any other measures for obtaining its compliance beyond offering their friendly advice and good offices.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 238.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 830.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, July 22, 1878.

IN a telegram dated the 21st instant, Sir H. Elliot informed me that Mehemet Ali Pasha had expressed to him his fear that some expressions in Lord Beaconsfield's speech in the House of Lords of the 18th instant might be interpreted at Constantinople in a sense injurious to him as regards his language with respect to the incorporation of Sophia into Bulgaria.

Mehemet Ali informed Sir H. Elliot that his opinion was not consulted upon this proposal, which would have been resisted by him; but that, it having been stated to him that it had been resolved upon, he used his best endeavours to obtain the second line, which he considered to be even stronger as a strategical frontier, and this he admits has been effected by the Treaty.

This telegram was repeated to your Excellency this evening, and, with reference thereto, I am of opinion that, when an opportunity offers itself, you should state to the Ottoman Government that Mehemet Ali Pasha did what he could to obtain the exclusion of Sophia from the Principality of Bulgaria, and that he is only responsible

for the statement which he made to the effect that, from a strategic point of view, the second line of frontier was the strongest.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 239.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 407.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 22, 1878.

IN a conversation which I had with Count Schouvaloff subsequent to the signature of the Treaty of Berlin, on the subject of the withdrawal by Russia of her army from the positions at present held by it in the neighbourhood of Constantinople, his Excellency gave me an assurance that the withdrawal should take place immediately. He also assured me that it was generally and earnestly desired that no delay should take place in commencing it. His Excellency further promised that directly he reached St. Petersburgh he would draw the attention of the Russian Government to this matter.

When M. Barthélemy came to see me to-day I spoke to him on the subject of the withdrawal of the Russian forces from the vicinity of Constantinople, and urged upon him the importance which Her Majesty's Government attached to obtaining the fulfilment without delay of the promise which I had received from Count Schouvaloff. He replied that he had received no information on this subject, and seemed to be inclined to doubt the probability of this movement being put into execution with the promptitude Count Schouvaloff had anticipated; he promised, however, that he would acquaint his Government with the anxiety felt by Her Majesty's Government on this subject, and their desire that no unnecessary delay should take place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 240.

Vice-Consul Gardner to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord,

Poti, July 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the military and engineering defences of this place are still carried on with great energy; the old batteries have been considerably enlarged, and several new ones have been constructed along the shore; two small earthworks have been raised on the north side of the Rhion, broad openings cut through the forest from the railway to the sea, commanded by small batteries inland, near the line of rail, and hoardings have been erected of great length with loop-holes for rifles along the north side, for the protection of the communication by rail.

Fortresses have also been erected at several places inland, on the line of march to Tiflis. Those of Quirille, Bellagore, &c., at the junction of the Caucassian and Anatolian ranges are strong positions, easy of defence, whilst Orphire on the Rhion, on the high road between Kutair and Ozurget, as well as the last-named place, have been strongly fortified.

The labour in these cases is performed by peasants, each village according to the number of hearths, or, as it is more commonly called here, smokes, being compelled to supply its proportion of workmen. Several steamers belonging to the Russian Steam Navigation Company reach Poti weekly, and torpedoes, rolls of wire-rope, cast-iron anchors, thousands of boxes of rifle-cartridges, ammunition, provisions, flour, sugar, salt-fish, provender, &c., are poured into the place at the rate of 2,000 tons weekly, whilst sick and wounded soldiers continue to arrive by rail and are embarked on board the steamers of the Company on their return voyages to Odessa, Kertch, and Sebastopol.

The prospects of peace do not give universal satisfaction. A numerous class of Georgian and Armenian inhabitants entertained hopes, in the event of an European war, they might also in the struggle obtain equal privileges with the Bulgarians, to whom they consider themselves infinitely superior in point of intelligence, civilization, wealth, and position; and many persons of the better sort do not attempt to conceal their aversion to the present Government.

The levying of troops or militia in Georgian villages has given rise to great discontent. Each village has been compelled to provide ten men, and 60 roubles with each individual to supply him with uniform and weapons. This, it is said, is contrary to the engagements entered into by Russia when the government of the country was handed over to her. It is also reported that the Russian conscription law will shortly be put in force in the Caucasus.

The small steamer or guard-ship makes numerous trips from Poti to Batoum, generally conveying an officer of position to prepare the way for the surrender of the place. The boys in Batoum usually amuse themselves by pelting her with stones, no doubt incited thereto by the older inhabitants.

The greatest enthusiasm prevails amongst the Lazes, and though all the means that Russian intrigue and diplomacy can devise have been resorted to, the Laz, so far, are firm in their determination to hold on to the last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS GARDNER.

No. 241.

M. Delyanni to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

Milord, *Le 9/21 Juillet*, 1878.

C'EST après-midi j'ai reçu de M. Commoundouros un télégramme que je me considère en devoir de communiquer en copie à votre Seigneurie, afin qu'elle veuille bien engager Mr. Layard à appuyer les démarches que le Gouvernement Royal, conformément à la décision du Congrès de Berlin, vient de faire auprès de la Sublime Porte.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signed) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

Inclosure in No. 241.

M. Commoundouros to M. Delyanni.

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 9/21 Juillet*, 1878.

VOUS savez déjà que nous avons invité Porte nommer Commissaires. D'après informations notre Ministre à Constantinople, Sultan et Porte paraissent disposés à ne pas céder. Armés et navires Turcs sont envoyés à Volo. Je ne fais pas grand cas de cette menace, étant convaincu que décision Europe était sérieuse et qu'elle agira en conséquence pour que décision Congrès soit exécutée.

No. 242.

Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

My Lord, *Horse Guards, Whitehall, July 29*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that previous to leaving Berlin I suggested to Colonel Blume, the German Military Delegate, who presided over the Committee which was employed in the description of the frontiers of the various provinces in European Turkey, that the Delegates of the several Powers who had assisted in this work should compare their maps with the descriptions in the Treaty and with each other before leaving Berlin, to which he acceded.

I accordingly requested Captain Ardagh to attend at the office of the Minister of War for that purpose on the 13th instant, when all the Delegates attended, except the Austrian.

The Russian and Turkish Delegates withdrew before the work was completed.

The other four Delegates representing Great Britain, Germany, Italy, and France, completed the comparison, and each signed the maps, with the exception of the German map of the German Delegate who did not require it to be signed.

The map, as compared by Captain Ardagh and signed by the Delegates, is forwarded herewith.

The only questions remaining in doubt are detailed in the Memorandum herewith

by Captain Ardagh, the points being of small importance, and such as can be settled locally, being dependent on the accuracy of the delineation of the ground on the maps.

The boundary on the Balkan will be subject to determination on the ground, in accordance with the IInd and XVth Articles of the Treaty of Berlin, which provide that the European Commission will take into consideration the necessity for His Imperial Majesty the Sultan being able to defend the Balkan frontiers of Roumelia and of erecting fortifications thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

Inclosure in No. 242.

Memorandum.

Final meeting of Military Delegates for the purpose of comparing maps, showing the boundaries of territories in Turkey in Europe, as determined by the Treaty of Berlin.

THE meeting took place at the War Office (Kriegsministerium) at Berlin, on the invitation of Colonel Blume, at noon of the 13th July.

There were present on the part of:—
Germany, Colonel Blume;
France, Colonel Comte Lesmaisons;
Italy, Colonel Comte Del Mayno;
Turkey, Chef d'Escadron, Hussein Nazim;
Great Britain, Captain Ardagh;
Russia, Colonel Bogolubow;
Austria, no one.

Colonel Blume brought his rough map which had been used in the previous meetings.

Comte Lesmaisons brought an untouched copy of the Austrian Staff map. Comte Del Mayno also brought a clean copy of the same. Neither of them had the sheets containing the district of the Krushowa Dugh.

Captain Ardagh had a complete Austrian map. Hussein Nazim had also a complete set. Colonel Bogolubow had a set wanting the Krushowa sheets.

Comte Lesmaisons and Comte Del Mayno took Colonel Blume's maps and proceeded to copy them, notwithstanding certain errors which Captain Ardagh pointed out. Colonel Bogolubow had his own boundary already marked, and in several points it did not correspond with the others.

Captain Ardagh traced the boundary on his map in strict accordance with the wording of the Treaty (which, at the commencement of the proceedings, had not yet been signed). Hussein Nazim adopted the same boundary.

Colonel Bogolubow left without asking that his map should be verified.

Hussein Nazim left also.

Comte Lesmaisons, Comte Del Mayno, Colonel Blume, and Captain Ardagh compared their boundaries, and, except Colonel Blume, made note of the divergences by adding dotted lines where two different lines were claimed.

Captain Ardagh made a note of the discrepancies as follows, and read it over in the presence of the remaining three Delegates.

Divergences à rectifier sur les lieux.

1. (*a*) Ligne le long de la Crête auprès de Bilek et Korito.
   (*b*) Ligne plus éloignée—à 6 kilom. de la route entre ces deux villages.
2. Ligne de la Mókra Planina au point 2161.
3. Ligne—
   (*a*) Ou directe à Plavnitza.
   (*b*) Ou à l'Est de Plavnitza.
4. Ligne aux sources du Karanlik.
5. Ligne vers Krushowa Dugh.

Comte Del Mayno, Comte Lesmaisons, Colonel Blume, and Captain Ardagh then signed the three sets of maps belonging to the first, second, and fourth, and the meeting broke up.

The points of difference are all of comparatively slight importance.

1. Between Bilek and Korito, on the Montenegrin frontier, the difference arose from the definition in Article XXVIII, "maintaining as far as possible a distance of 6 kilom. from the Bilek Korito Gacko road."

Captain Ardagh maintained that the distance should be preserved. Colonel Bogolubow followed what he alleged to be a crest line about 2 kilom. from the road.

2. From the vicinity of Mokra, Colonel Bogolubow claimed a line which descended beyond the watershed, included the village of Kucište and the head-waters of the Spek River, and joined the sandjak boundary. No one supported him. The line of the watershed clearly excludes this claim.

3. The boundary near Plavinica was drawn on my map by Colonel de Thommel to a point 3 or 4 kilom. to the east of Plavinica, and there was a general concurrence in this line, except on the part of Captain Ardagh, who maintained that the line was to be drawn "sur Plavinica," according to the wording of the Treaty, admitting, however, that the existing boundaries between the tribes should be adhered to as far as possible.

4. On the boundary between the Tundja and the sea, at the source of the Karanlik Deré, near Kounra and Kara Evren, the line drawn by Colonel Blume did not extend so far towards Akarino as that drawn by Captain Ardagh. The difference arose from the difficulty of tracing the watershed on the map, there being no divergence of opinion as to the principle.

5. On the south-west boundary of Roumelia the description in the Treaty of San Stefano was adopted, in consequence of the Austrian Staff maps not yet being available for the public, the Austrians and English alone having provisional copies of them. This description is based on Kiepert's map, and was clearly intended to mean in that neighbourhood the crest line of the Kara Balkan range.

On tracing the watershed between the affluents of the Maritza on the one hand, and those of the Mesta and the Arda on the other, on the Austrian map, it became evident that the Krushowa Dagh and the Kulagi Dagh were actually to the south of the watershed above indicated, and formed, in fact, a crest between the waters of the Mesta and the Arda.

Even the literal exposition of the line of the two Treaties will only lead to an anomaly, by which an imaginary line leads from the watershed to Krushowa and Kulagi Dagh and back again over the same ground.

In actually tracing the frontier there will be no difficulty in determining the line of the watershed, and excluding the two mountains named. Baron Schwegel admitted on another occasion to Captain Ardagh that the mention of Krushowa and Kulagi appeared to be an error.

The French, Italian, and German Delegates, not having this sheet on the map, did not mark the boundary, and accepted Captain Ardagh's representation without prejudice to future examination.

July 13, 1878.

(Signed) J. C. ARDAGH, *Captain, R.E.*,
Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General.

No. 243.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July* 22, 1878.

PRINCE GORTCHACOW expressed to me this morning his anxious wish that Her Majesty's Government, in the common interest, as also in that of Turkey, will use their influence to induce Porte to evacuate Batoum without delay.

The Turkish Ambassador, by desire of Prince Gortchacow, is telegraphing to his Government in same sense.

(Confidential.)

It appears to me that the Porte might claim in return the immediate restoration of Turkish prisoners of war now detained in Russia. I did not mention this to Prince Gortchacow, but I asked when Russian forces would be withdrawn from

San Stefano, to which his Highness replied: "On the evacuation of Shumla and Varna."

No. 244.

M. Waddington to the Marquis d'Harcourt.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by the Marquis d'Harcourt, July 23.)

Le 21 *Juillet*, 1878.

LA Convention signée à Constantinople le 4 Juin dernier, entre l'Angleterre et la Turquie, et qui n'a été rendue publique que dans les premiers jours de ce mois, a suscité, de toutes parts, aussitôt qu'elle a été connue, une émotion considérable. Cette impression a été plus profonde en France que partout ailleurs. Ce n'est pas qu'une disposition particulière y inclinât les esprits à accueillir avec défiance ou à juger avec sévérité les actes du Gouvernement Britannique. Les relations cordiales qui existent depuis tant d'années entre les deux nations à leur mutuel avantage, la multiplicité, la complexité des liens qui les attachent l'une à l'autre, le sentiment même du préjudice qui a pu être pour chacune d'elles, à d'autres époques, la conséquence de leur éloignement momentané, toutes ces raisons auraient défendu l'opinion Française, prise dans son ensemble, contre une appréciation peu amicale de la conduite du Cabinet de Londres, si elle n'avait été naturellement portée, par une longue habitude, à associer, spécialement dans les affaires Orientales, sa cause avec celle de l'Angleterre.

Mais ce qui a touché la France au cœur, c'est la crainte qu'en dehors de la sphère des intérêts généraux qui nous rapprochent de la Grande Bretagne, les intérêts particuliers dont nous avons le patronage dans le Levant et à la garde desquels nous ne pourrions renoncer sans le plus sensible détriment matériel et moral, ne se trouvassent compromis par suite de la nouvelle position qu'assumait le Gouvernement Anglais. Ces intérêts, j'avais pris soin de les indiquer par mes réserves formelles, avant d'accepter l'invitation au Congrès de Berlin. J'avais exclu expressément de toute discussion l'état de choses existant dans le Liban, les Lieux Saints, et l'Égypte. Tous les Cabinets avaient adhéré à cette restriction, et le public en était informé. L'explosion de surprise et d'inquiétude qui s'est produite en France n'était-elle donc pas justifiée, lorsqu'on a appris que l'Angleterre allait occuper une île de la Méditerranée, située dans la position stratégique et maritime la plus favorable pour dominer à la fois les côtes de la Syrie et celles de l'Égypte, et qu'à cet avantage direct s'ajoutait pour elle le droit d'intervenir désormais d'une façon active dans l'administration de toutes les contrées de l'Asie soumises à la loi Ottomane.

Ce mouvement de l'opinion était si naturel, dans les circonstances où le Traité Anglo-Turc a été divulgué, il était même tellement prévu par les hommes d'État clairvoyants qui dirigent les affaires de la Grande Bretagne, qu'avant de livrer à la publicité l'Acte du 4 Juin, Lord Salisbury a voulu combattre à l'avance l'impression défavorable que nous pouvions en concevoir. C'est dans cette pensée, je n'en doute pas, que son Excellence, en me faisant connaître officiellement, à Berlin, le 7 de ce mois, la Convention signée avec Safvet Pacha par Mr. Layard, a accompagné sa communication d'une dépêche dont j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre la copie ci-annexée.

Ce document, qui présente par lui-même une haute valeur à nos yeux, emprunte une signification plus précieuse encore pour nous aux commentaires qu'y a joints verbalement le Principal Secrétaire d'État de la Reine dans les entretiens qu'après avoir reçu son envoi j'ai jugé indispensable d'avoir avec lui. Je ne m'arrêterai pas aux considérations d'ordre général au moyen desquelles la dépêche de Lord Salisbury motive ou caractérise la détermination adoptée par le Gouvernement Britannique; elles sont exposées sous une forme courtoise pour nous, et je reconnais que la France et l'Autriche se refusant à intervenir dans les conditions prévues par le Traité du 15 Avril, 1856, l'Angleterre était naturellement amenée à agir seule et à chercher les moyens de relever son prestige en Asie, affaibli par l'établissement des Russes dans une forteresse aussi importante que Kars. Mais je désire m'en tenir ici aux passages dans lesquels le Ministre Anglais répudie, au nom de son Gouvernement, une politique qui tendrait à prendre matériellement pied, soit en Égypte ou seulement même sur les bords du Canal de Suez, soit sur le continent de l'Asie Occidentale.

L'abandon de tout projet d'occupation de ce genre a été, suivant le Marquis de Salisbury, la conséquence du désir du Gouvernement Anglais de ne pas provoquer les susceptibilités de la France et du sentiment qu'il avait de la légitimité des objections que nous aurions dû opposer à de semblables desseins.

Pensant moi-même, dans mes conversations avec le Principal Secrétaire d'État de la

Reine, le point de départ qui m'était fourni par sa communication écrite, je lui ai exposé que si toute objection de notre part devait être écartée, il fallait que nous pussions obtenir du Gouvernement Anglais des déclarations explicites de nature à rassurer définitivement la France sur le sort des intérêts de tout ordre attachés pour elle au maintien de l'état actuel des choses en Syrie et en Egypte. Quant à ce qui est des Lieux Saints, nos privilèges traditionnels nous paraissent suffisamment garantis par la clause spéciale introduite à notre demande dans le texte du Traité de Berlin, et à laquelle la Grande Bretagne a souscrit comme les autres Puissances. Mais en Syrie nous exerçons de fait, sur les populations Catholiques du Liban, une influence directrice, dont le Règlement Organique, sanctionné en 1861 par l'Europe, a respecté les bases, et que nous ne pouvons laisser périmer. En Egypte, des intérêts à la fois économiques et moraux d'une valeur plus grande encore réclament notre sollicitude. Sans doute, nous ne pouvons avoir la pensée d'élever des obstacles d'aucun genre au développement naturel des intérêts analogues qu'a, de son côté, l'Angleterre dans ce pays. Nous sommes les premiers à reconnaître combien il est indispensible pour elle de maintenir comme un principe absolu la liberté de ses communications par le Canal de Suez avec ses possessions de l'Inde. Mais en respectant sa position comme grande Puissance Asiatique, nous croyons avoir droit à un respect semblable pour la nôtre comme grande Puissance Méditerranéenne. Nous désirons donc être assurés que dans l'avenir, comme dans le présent, nos deux Gouvernements marcheront d'accord pour conserver intacte, par une action amicale fondée sur une juste réciprocité d'égards l'un envers l'autre, la sphère de leurs intérêts respectifs dans la vallée du Nil. Telles sont les conditions en dehors desquelles il ne paraîtrait impossible de garantir la durée des rapports de cordialité et de confiance que nous souhaitons également, Lord Salisbury et moi, de voir perpétués entre les Gouvernements de France et d'Angleterre, comme entre les deux nations.

Le prix même que j'attachais à ce qu'aucun germe de malentendu futur ne pût rester déposé dans les arrangements pris aujourd'hui, m'obligeait à entrer dans ces franches explications et à insister auprès de mon interlocuteur pour obtenir de lui des déclarations positives sur les points qui nous touchent.

Le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de la Reine, je me hâte de vous le dire, a apprécié, comme je croyais y avoir droit, les mobiles et la portée de mon langage. Il s'est empressé de me donner, sous la forme la plus satisfaisante, les assurances que j'attendais de sa loyauté. Il a reconnu avec moi les devoirs et les droits qui découlent pour nous de notre position acquise au Liban, et il m'a déclaré qu'aucun acte du Gouvernement Anglais ne viendrait y porter atteinte. Pour ce qui concerne l'Egypte, ses paroles n'ont pas été moins nettes; il a accordé sa complète adhésion aux vues que je lui avais développées sur le rôle désormais dévolu dans ce pays à nos deux nations, sur l'égalité et le respect mutuel qui doivent y présider à leurs relations réciproques, sur l'unité d'action où elles devaient chercher à l'avenir un surcroît de sécurité pour les intérêts particuliers de chacune d'elles. J'ajouterai enfin que Lord Beaconsfield, dans les différents entretiens que j'ai eus avec lui, s'est inspiré des mêmes idées et m'a tenu le même langage.

L'exposé que j'ai l'honneur de vous faire ici de cet échange de vues n'a pas seulement pour but de vous informer de la nature des rapports que j'ai entretenus avec les Représentants du Gouvernement de la Reine pendant notre commun séjour à Berlin, et de vous indiquer les conséquences qui doivent en résulter pour la conduite ultérieure des deux Cabinets de Paris et de Londres à l'égard l'un de l'autre; il m'importait surtout de spécifier d'une manière à la fois précise et définitive les objets sur lesquels avaient porté nos explications avec Lord Salisbury et les résultats de ces explications. Les deux pays ont un intérêt trop considérable à ce qu'aucune méprise sur ces points essentiels ne se produise entre leurs Gouvernements, pour que je ne tienne pas à m'assurer une fois de plus que j'ai bien compris le sens des déclarations que j'ai reçues. Je vous prie donc de vouloir bien donner lecture à Lord Salisbury de la présente dépêche et lui en laisser copie à titre confidentiel; il y trouvera formulées de nouveau les observations que j'ai cru devoir lui faire entendre à Berlin, et j'ai la conviction qu'il reconnaîtra que ses réponses y sont reproduites avec exactitude.

Agréez, &c.

No. 244.*

Mr. Vivian to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(Telegraphic.)

Cairo, July 22, 1878.

NUBAR PASHA, having received a direct and urgent appeal from the Viceroy to return to Egypt, takes London on his way, probably to see Her Majesty's Ministers. As the circumstances in which he returns must give him exceptionally powerful influence here, it might be well to make him clearly understand the views and wishes of Her Majesty's Government, which I believe he will support.

No. 245.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 168.)

(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, July 23, 1878.

THE Turkish Plenipotentiaries have received no instructions from the Porte for the negotiation of the arrangements for the occupation of Bosnia, and this Government seems to be inclined to suspect that the Porte wishes to avoid anything having the appearance of an assent to the measure.

(Secret.)

I learn that on the morning of the signature of the Treaty of Berlin, the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries persuaded Count Andrássy to sign a declaration that in the proposed occupation, the rights of the Sultan should be respected; that it was of a provisional character, and that the two Governments should come to an understanding upon the manner in which it is to be carried out.

The delay of the Porte in giving the instructions to enable the Plenipotentiaries to make their arrangements appears therefore very unwise.

No. 246.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 681.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 23, 1878.

FRENCH Ambassador has informed the Grand Vizier that French iron-clads have been ordered to the Pirœus, and has given him to understand that they are prepared to resist any attempt on the part of the Turkish fleet to attack Greece by sea.

No. 247.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 685.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 23, 1878.

CONSUL BLUNT is anxious to know whether, at the end of his present mission, he is to return to Salonica or to Adrianople. Your Lordship may probably wish him to remain in Thessaly until the termination of the Greek question. He has discharged his duties to my entire satisfaction, and if a new and higher Consular appointment is to be made in European Turkey, I trust your Lordship will give a favourable consideration to his claims to it.

No. 248.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 75. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, July 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of three despatches which I have written to his Excellency Sir A. H. Layard, acknowledging the receipt of his Excellency's telegram ordering me to persuade the Provisional Government to stop further bloodshed, and to propose for their acceptance the conditions as formerly offered them, the result of my interview with the Provisional Government, and the confirmation of the outrages committed by the regular troops in Apokorona, and the disorders committed by Bashi-Bazouks in the east of the island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 248.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, July 10, 1878.*

I JUST after posting my last despatch to your Excellency on the 8th instant, I had the honour to receive the following telegram:—

"With reference to your despatch No. 79, it would be agreeable to the Grand Vizier if you would meet the Provisional Government and the Chiefs again, with the view of stopping further bloodshed. Your Excellency thinks it desirable that I should take this step if possible, and inasmuch as the Cretans must abandon all hopes of Congress decreeing the annexation of their island to Greece, they may be willing to accept conditions, and I am to let you know if anything can be done in the matter."

To this I replied the following morning that I had fixed Thursday, the 11th instant, as the day for meeting the Members of the Provisional Government, and that I would not fail to let your Excellency know what could be done to induce them to agree to conditions.

With regard to the former part of these instructions, I anticipate no difficulty whatever in making the insurgents avoid giving further occasion for the shedding of blood, because they have recently assured me that they have issued the most stringent orders to that end. I have also called on the new Commander-in-chief, and asked his Excellency if he could give me assurances that his troops would remain strictly on the defensive. Ali Haidar Pasha disclaimed most emphatically all ideas of embarking on fresh military exploits, and told me that the insurgents need entertain no fears on this subject. I was glad to hear his Excellency use such explicit language, because he had contemplated only ten days previously leading his troops into Selino, a project which had called forth a vigorous protest from Ostaki Pasha.

The situation, nevertheless, is so full of peril, that any unforeseen occurrence may again lead to hostilities. Such an event has just occurred in the Sandjak of Candia, where the Vice-Consul this morning telegraphed to me as follows:—"Bashi-Bazouks pillaged the many villages in Rhizo and Monofatsi yesterday. They pillaged also my vice-[illegible] Sfakia."

As M. Calocherino's information is usually to be relied on, I have to-day telegraphed to your Excellency and also to the Foreign Office, that the Moslem irregulars had been engaged in plundering villages in districts to the south of Candia.

It is much to be feared that the Christians, in warding off these unprovoked attacks, should bring on an engagement, and that troops should be despatched to the aid of the Bashi-Bazouks, thus lighting up the war anew.

With regard to the prospect of persuading the Chiefs and the members of the General Assembly to agree to the conditions as sketched out at the close of my despatch No. 61 of the 27th May, I confess that I have not much hope of succeeding in that object at the late hour of the deliberations of Congress, when at any moment they may learn their fate without the humiliation of having previously made their submission to the Porte. It is of such importance, however, to prevent further bloodshed, that I shall not consider my mission to have failed if I convince them of the futility of engaging in further hostilities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 248.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Vizilé, in Apokorona, July 13, 1878.*

WHEN I arrived at this village on the 11th instant, I found that a few influential people from distant districts might be expected to arrive on the morrow, and accordingly, I put off communicating to the notables of the country the objects of my mission till the next day. Just before meeting them, your Excellency's telegram of the 11th instant, which had arrived in Canea the evening before, was put into my hands, conceived in these terms:—

"After communicating with the Grand Vizier on the subject of your telegram of the 9th instant, his Highness informs me that he has sent orders to the Vali of Crete to prevent the Mahomedans from attacking or molesting the Christians, and that those orders are being acted upon. Inform me whether this be so."

What I already had the honour to report to your Excellency in my last despatch as to the formal declaration which the new Commander-in-chief made to me on this subject will suffice to show that his Excellency at least is carrying out these latest instructions. At the same time, the plundering by the Bashi-Bazouks in the cazas of Monofatsi and Rhizo to the south of Candia, as reported in my telegram of the 10th instant, prove how powerless the Government is to enforce its orders on the lawless Mussulman natives. I shall have a further opportunity of observing how the above orders are being enforced when I return through the Turkish positions in Apokorona, and I will telegraph accordingly.

I began addressing my audience on the importance of preventing further bloodshed; and I found them quite averse to the renewal of hostilities. They had previously informed me that they had no intention of beginning any attack themselves, and had instructed the Chiefs to remain strictly on the defensive, but if the Ottoman troops made any inroad within the country now in their power, they had arranged that a concerted attack should be made on all the enemy's positions. I pointed out to them that an accidental skirmish might thus lead to a general war, which it would be out of their power to stop till the country was devastated. They then explained that only in the event of a preconcerted attack by the Turks being decided on by the concentration of troops in any given place would such an extreme measure be resorted to, for that it would be to throw away all the advantages of their organization not to attack positions which had been weakened for the purpose of [illegible].

To [illegible] I could not demur, but now that the Commander-in-chief engages to remain on the defensive, there is no danger of the massing of troops for a hostile movement, as was the case in the last attack in Apokorona. I feel perfectly confident, from the language held by the Deputies assembled before me, that so far as depends on them every effort will be made to prevent the renewal of hostilities. The real danger lies in the unauthorized attacks of the Bashi-Bazouks, such as have lately been made in the district of Candia and in the neighbourhood of Rethymo, the authorities having far less control over these men than have the Christian Chiefs over their followers. Many Chiefs of note having arrived from distant places, I was also able to receive from them assurances of their pacific intentions.

I then proceeded to show the Deputies that the surest method of preventing hostilities was by accepting the conditions previously offered and fully explained to them in my last meeting. They argued, however, that as the time that must elapse before the Congress would decide on the future Government in the island could not be long—indeed, that the decision might be expected every day—they were determined to remain in arms until they should learn what that decision should be. I sought an opportunity of letting three of their leading men know that they must give up all hope of the island being annexed to Greece, and they did not fail to communicate the information to the rest, for which they seemed half prepared. Notwithstanding the discouragement thus conveyed, it did not seem to shake them in the resolution they had formed; for I see that it has become a point of honour with them not to abandon the programme under which they raised the standard of rebellion till the Powers to which they have appealed shall bid them definitely

tively abandon it. Greece, meanwhile, continues to keep them in heart by sending them ammunition and money: two cargoes of the former having recently been landed in Selino and Apokorona within the last fortnight, and each week's steamer bringing them money, 5,000 Napoléons being last week's instalment. Moreover, the recent fighting in Apokorona, with its attendant cruelties, has exasperated rather than cowed them; and the presence of 1,500 fugitives from the villages ruined by the troops, who thronged the villages through which I passed on my way here, served to remind them of those cruelties. There is no denying, however, that the people are heartily sick of the war, and were Congress not now sitting they would gladly close with the offer I was commissioned to make them. But it is too great a temptation to them to be able to boast that they refused to give in their submission till the united voice of Europe spoke to them. Nevertheless, they were overflowing in expressions of gratitude to Her Majesty's Government, and to your Excellency in particular, for the efforts made to bring about a suspension of arms, and they seek to convey these feelings in the letter they gave me in parting. I may say that I had myself but small hope of their accepting, on the eve of the dissolution of Congress, the large concessions made them by the Porte through your Excellency's mediation; and from what I have seen of the want of harmony existing between the Chiefs of the different districts, and between the people themselves and the Provisional Government, I fear that the power which the concessions confer upon them will be liable to abuse. It is a happy circumstance that the results of the deliberations of Congress on the future of Crete may so soon be expected, for the people will submit to the decree emanating from that august assembly as they would to a decree of State; but nothing short of such an authoritative utterance appears likely to shake their resolution to remain in arms except the undertaking of a regular campaign by the Turks. After some further parleying with the Deputies, the insurrectional authorities handed me in this morning a letter in answer to my proposals, of which I have the honour to annex a translation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—14th July. On my return through the Turkish and Christian lines in Apokorona yesterday, I was satisfied that the recent orders against attacking or molesting the Christians were, on the whole, being carried out, such molestation of Christians as has occurred near Candia being in spite of the authorities; and I have therefore to-day despatched to your Excellency the following telegram:—

"With reference to your Excellency's telegram of the 11th instant, the Turkish military authorities remain on the defensive."

T. B. S.

Inclosure 3 in No. 218.

Letter from the Provisional Government to Consul Sandwith.

(Traduction.)

M. le Consul, *Ziaifé d'Apocorona, le 1/13 Juillet*, 1878.

L'ASSEMBLÉE Générale a discuté, après en avoir pris connaissance, les propositions que vous avez faites aujourd'hui, et qui peuvent se résumer comme suit:—

1. Que par suite des représentations de l'Ambassadeur de la Grande Bretagne à Constantinople la Sublime Porte a donné des ordres sévères au Commandant Militaire en Crète, afin qu'il évite toute offensive contre les Chrétiens, et que ce Commandant vous a donné l'assurance qu'il exécuterait ces ordres dans l'avenir.

2. Que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique désire apprendre si les autorités militaires insurrectionnelles sont disposés à donner le signal des hostilités.

3. Qu'à la suite des instructions de l'Ambassadeur de la Grande Bretagne à Constantinople vous nous offrez d'accepter ce que vous nous avez expliqué dans notre précédente entrevue à propos d'une organisation provisoire de l'île jusqu'à ce que le Congrès Européen de Berlin décide définitivement du sort future du peuple Crétois.

L'Assemblée Générale exprima par votre intermédiaire au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté sa profonde reconnaissance et les ardents remerciments des Chrétiens Crétois, qui a songé à prévenir un inutile versement de sang dans l'avenir, et affirme qu'elle ne donnera aucune occasion pour la reprise des hostilités.

L'Assemblée Générale continuant d'attendre la décision de ce Congrès, elle reste avec l'espoir consolant que le Gouvernement Anglais prendra l'initiative et soutiendra

sans hésitation nos droits indiscutables à l'union avec la Grèce, notre mère-patrie, droits que le peuple Crétois a gagnés avec son sang et mille sacrifices.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Président,
(Signé) CONSTANTIN MITZOTAKIS.
Les Vice-Présidents,
STAVRO MACRAHIS.
JEAN BLASTOS.
Le Secrétaire-Général,
TH. STAVRODAKIS.
(Suivent 72 signatures.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 218.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, July 14, 1878.*

DURING the journey which I have made the last few days in the district of Apokorona, I took the opportunity of investigating the account of cruelties practised by the Turkish troops in their late attack in Apokorona. Several inhabitants of the villages of Tsivaro, Armenous, and Neo Chorio being in that neighbourhood, I questioned several of them, and amongst others a woman who had been wounded by a soldier, and another whose father and mother had been burned before her eyes. This latter witness stated that she, a young brother, and their parents were in their house, when two soldiers tried to force the door. She concealed herself behind some jars and sacks at the end of the room, and there she saw with horror what took place. The soldiers first shot her parents, and then, while seated in chairs, put fuel round them and burnt them. Neighbours corroborated her statement so far as to attest that they found their ashes on the spot. Her brother and self escaped. Their parents' names were Costantino Halvadaki, and his wife Argyry. Other women killed were Maria Patinataki, Argyry Mananaki, Andréana Lailopulo, and a woman from another village whose name I could not ascertain. There were thus five women in all who lost their lives, but as far as I could learn they died chiefly by gun-shot wounds. Four men must be added to this list—one above mentioned, another John Pontikaki, Sergos, and Lambio Ladakis. Five other women were wounded, but no children were either killed or wounded. All were from the village of Arménous, the two children asserted to have been murdered in Tsivara having afterwards turned up. Such also was the case with a certain Joseph Halvadaki, his old mother, and the young woman Kyriaki Fiskaki, who all, as well as the child of the latter, had been rescued by some humane Mussulman neighbours and carried to town.

His Excellency Costaki Pasha went on the evening of the 9th instant to Rethymo, with the intention of afterwards visiting Candia and the districts further east. I hear that he arrested one or two of the ringleaders who have been causing disturbances in that neighbourhood, and that he then proceeded to Candia. His Excellency's departure seems to have been the signal for a demonstration of the Moslems before the Governor's konak, as reported to me in a telegram from the Consular Agent, dated the 12th instant, who further adds that the shops were shut and that great irritation existed in the town. No other details have reached me. I had requested Captain Cator, of Her Majesty's ship "Defence," who was going to sea for target-practice, to call in both at Rethymo and Candia, and he agreed to do so, so that his arrival would be most opportune.

From Candia I have no further intelligence from the Vice-Consul as to the raid made by Bashi-Bazouks on Christian villages in Rhizo and Monofat-si, but while with the insurgents the day before yesterday a Deputy from the former district brought me a petition signed by the Christian inhabitants, in which they set forth their grievances. In those cazas, half or perhaps the majority of the peasantry are Moslem, who, after having finished reaping their harvest and sending the produce to Candia, set upon the unsuspecting Christians, and pillaged their houses. They give a list of seventeen villages thus treated, many of them mere hamlets, but they specially mention the two villages of Aloynin and Patsidaros as having been utterly ruined along with the churches. I have no further particulars of these disgraceful scenes, but the Vali is now in that neighbourhood, and it is to be presumed he will endeavour to the restoration of order. I have telegraphed to Mr. Vice-Consul Calocerino to ascertain more particulars and report the result to me.

Since writing the above I have received the following telegram from the Vice-Consul:—

"Pillaged Skiniah, Calyvia, Castelianu, Patsidoros, Dhenati, Favriana, Monastery Apostoli; churches also profaned. Turk killed at Sarakiano. Communication being interrupted, impossible ascertain numbers villagers pillaged; perhaps 250 families."

I have also seen his Excellency Costaki Pasha, who has just returned from his tour in the east of the island. He informs me that he had succeeded in quieting the popular agitation in Rethymo, one of the ringleaders having voluntarily quitted the town, and another, a fanatic Koord from Bagdad, who had been inciting the religious zeal of the Mussulmans, being besieged in his house by some troops, is also preparing to leave the island. His Excellency speaks highly of the Colonel in command at Rethymo, as also of Salim Pasha, who commands in Candia. In the district south of that town a good deal of pillaging had occurred, but not, his Excellency assured me, to the extent that has been reported to me. The two companies of Bashi-Bazouks guilty of these disorders had been recalled by Salim Pasha, and thus some check has been put to these deplorable scenes. The Vali further informed me that he had arrived at the small town of Heraqetra on the south-east coast just in time to prevent similar and worse scenes. A fanatic Softa from Roumelia had been preaching the religious war in the mosque, and had so inflamed the religious ardour of his hearers that everything had been planned for a marauding expedition into the surrounding country. His Excellency succeeded in arresting this fanatic, who is now in Candia, ready to be transported to Constantinople.

Not having seen Costaki Pasha since the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 11th instant, I now inquired whether he had recently received orders from the Grand Vizier to prevent the Christians being attacked and molested by Mahommedans, and his Excellency answered in the negative. He told me that his own efforts had throughout been directed to this end, and that the Porte had always approved his conduct. As to what he had received no special instructions on the subject of late. Having concluded from my interview with the Commander-in-chief, as reported in my despatch No. 84, and also from my observations at the Turkish positions in Apokorona, as recorded in my last, that new pacific instructions had been received, I had telegraphed as stated in that de-patch, but I intend to-morrow morning sending the following telegram:—

"The Vali assures me that he has received no orders from Grand Vizier against attacking and molesting the Christians, but that he is acting as if he had."

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS H. SANDWITH.

No. 249.

Vice-Consul Summa to the Marquis of Salisbury.—Received July 23.

(No. 62. Consulaire.)
My Lord, *Scutari, le 13 Juillet*, 1878.

PAR ma dépêche télégraphique datée du 8 de ce mois, j'ai eu l'honneur d'informer votre Seigneurie que les délégués du district de Scutari et des montagnes qui étaient partis pour Prisrend dans le but de s'entendre avec les autres délégués de l'Albanie convoqués en assemblée générale, étaient de retour ici.

Les décisions du Comité de Prisrend, ayant trait aux affaires de l'Albanie, consistent:—

Dans le cas où le Congrès de Berlin accorderait à la Serbie et au Monténégro des agrandissements dans l'Albanie, les habitants en masse prendraient les armes, pour répondre au premier appel de leurs chefs. En suite une sommation sera faite à ces deux Principautés pour avoir à évacuer les positions conquises, et en cas de refus on forcera cette retraite par les armes.

Un des corps de l'armée qui se formera, devra opérer contre la Serbie: un autre composé des contingents de Scutari et des montagnes, fort de 30,000 hommes, auquel viendront se joindre les volontaires en nombre égal, de Dibra, Matia, et Ochrida, sera chargé d'attaquer le Monténégro.

Un comité composé par les chefs Musulmans et Catholiques de cette ville, ainsi que par les chefs des montagnes, dirige les opérations relatives au mouvement actuel. L'accord le plus parfait existe entre eux, et déjà les Musulmans ont commencé à s'inscrire pour les enrôlements. Quant aux Catholiques de Scutari, ils sont exonérés du service militaire obligatoire, qui a leur égard doit être tout à fait volontaire comme dans les guerres précédentes.

Les tribus de nos montagnes fourniront leur contingent de troupes, et Prenk Bib Doda s'est obligé, envers le comité, à fournir le contingent des Mirdites, pourvu qu'on lui déverne également le commandement des tribus de Ponka, Oclirida mineure, et des montagnes d'Alessio et Loura, et je suis informé que le comité a accédé à la demande du Chef des Mirdites.

Les armes et les munitions ne font point défaut ici, et quant aux vivres on a décidé qu'au lieu de donner au Gouvernement les dimes, elles seraient perçues par le comité et serviraient à l'entretien des Bachi-Bazouks.

Enfin les ordres les plus stricts et les plus sévères ont été donnés pour maintenir la tranquillité et la confiance dans le peuple, et en cas de désobéissance le comité a décidé qu'une punition exemplaire sera infligée aux auteurs de tout désordre.

Quant au Gouverneur de Scutari, jusqu'à présent il garde une attitude inactive vis-à-vis les événements qui se déroulent, et loin de donner des ordres rigoureux pour empêcher ces réunions, c'est lui qui sournois les encourage et il ne s'oppose en rien aux décisions du Comité.

Je suis fondé à croire que le Vali doit avoir l'approbation de la Sublime Porte, et que c'est même d'après ses ordres qu'il agit; car en cas contraire la responsabilité des suites tomberait sur son inaction, d'autant plus injustifiable qu'en montrant de l'énergie et avec l'influence qu'il a su prendre sur les chefs des montagnes et sur Prenk Bib Doda, il ferait manquer le mouvement et tout rentrerait bientôt dans l'ordre, tandis qu'en le laissant grossir il y a lieu à craindre que sous peu il n'ait ni la force ni les moyens de le réprimer.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) F. SUMMA.

No. 250.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 24.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, July 24*, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell, on the subject of a musketry fire which was opened from the shore at the head of the Gulf of Xeros, in temporary occupation of the Russians, on the boats belonging to Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure," which were sent in search of two officers of that ship.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 250.

Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, "*Agincourt*," *at Gallipoli, July* 17, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the duplicates of a correspondence I have this day forwarded to the Commander-in-chief on the subject of a musketry fire that was opened on two boats belonging to Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure," from the shore in the temporary occupation of the Russians at the head of the Gulf of Xeros on Sunday last, the 14th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 250.

Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Sir, "*Agincourt*," *at Gallipoli, July* 17, 1878.

IN forwarding the accompanying correspondence from Captain Nowell Salmon, reporting the circumstances respecting the musketry fire opened by the Russians on the steam-pinnace and gig of the "Swiftsure," while employed searching at the head of

the Gulf of Xeros for two officers belonging to that ship who were missing in a skiff, which I made the subject of a telegram to you yesterday, I beg leave to observe that on both sides of the Peninsula the rule on our part has invariably been to take the greatest care to prevent any possibility of a collision with the Russians, and in the visits which have of necessity been paid by Her Majesty's ships to the different ports along the coast for the purpose of communicating with our Consular Agents, every precaution possible has been taken to avoid giving offence.

2. On the other hand, the Colonel in command of the town of Sharkoi ordered the brother-in-law of the British Vice-Consul at Gallipoli to be severely beaten for having (openly) delivered a letter to our Interpreter when he was on shore with Commander Day, of the "Condor," paying an official visit to General Levis.

3. I am also informed by Osman Nourri Pasha that last Friday the Turkish Collector of Taxes was fired upon when crossing the neutral zone, and so obliged to give up his business, and that to none of his letters to the General at Sharkoi on the subject of the various irregularities committed by the Russians has he up to this time received any answer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 250.

Captain Salmon to Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell.

"*Swiftsure*," *at Port Bakhir, July* 15, 1878.

Sir,

I REGRET to report that two of the officers of this ship, Lieutenant Rolleston and Mr. Evan Thomas (midshipman), are now prisoners in the hands of the Russians.

On Sunday afternoon they went for a sail in a skiff belonging to the ward-room officers, and stood across the Gulf towards the Xeros Islands.

They were due on board the ship at 6 P.M., but not having returned at 8 P.M. I sent the steam-pinnace and second gig, with a lieutenant and their ordinary crews, a medical officer, and a Greek from the hut-, who can speak a little English, as interpreter, to search for them, fearing that their boat might have capsized, but that they might have escaped by swimming to the shore.

I allowed no arms to be taken (except the officers' side arms), and gave the lieutenant in charge Lieutenant Laurence a letter in French for the officer commanding the troops in that neighbourhood, stating the object of their visit, and requesting assistance in searching for them.

After examining the islands, without finding any trace of them, the boats proceeded to examine the mainland, and eventually found the skiff hauled up close to the windmill marked on chart No. 2177, under the village of Karajali.

Mr. Laurence approached the shore in the gig as close as the soldiers, who appeared to use the windmill as a watch-house, would permit, and, by means of interpreters, learnt that the two officers had landed, and were made prisoners and sent to Zenikeui, and that if he came back in the morning they would be released.

He was then told that he might land if he came with only two men, so leaving half the gig's crew in the steam-pinnace he commenced pulling towards the shore, with the intention of delivering my letter, when rifle fire was opened upon his boat, passing over her, but two balls striking the pinnace; fortunately no one was hit. He then returned on board.

He judges that about twelve men were firing, and that they fired about fifty shots. This morning at 8 A.M. I sent him again with the steam-pinnace to bring off the officers if they had returned. He was not allowed to land, but by going in the dingy alone with the interpreter was allowed to approach near enough to hold a parley. He saw no officer, only some Circassians, who told him that the officers would breakfast with the General and then be sent back. They expressed regret at having fired upon the boats, and hoped no one was hit.

He returned on board about noon and went again after dinner, taking with him a letter from me to the General commanding in the district complaining of the treatment my boats had received. This letter he brought back, as they would have nothing to do with it.

He had orders to remain till sunset, and asked and obtained permission to anchor a couple of hundred yards or so from the beach until then. At about an hour before sunset

a shot was fired at the pinnace, striking close alongside and ricochetting over the boat, although she had the ensign flying and a white flag as a sign she was unarmed.

At sunset, the officers not having come down, he returned on board. The skiff is also still in the hands of the Russians.

I had warned Lieutenant Laurence to avoid in every way getting into a row with the Russians, and consider that he carried out his instructions with great judgment and temper. He did not see more than a dozen soldiers, but is of opinion that the villagers, many of whom were armed, were acting with them.

In landing on the north shore of the Gulf, Lieutenant Rolleston disobeyed my general orders for ships stationed in the Gulf of Xeros.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOWELL SALMON.

P.S.—Since writing the above, these officers have returned in the skiff. They were first sent to Kadakioi, where they spent Sunday night. The officer commanding there being only a Captain, they were sent on to Sharkoi, where they were brought before a Colonel Kancharenko, who entertained them at dinner, and then permitted them to return by the same route. At Kadakioi, on their return, they were informed by the Russian officers that my boats had fired on the Cossacks at Karajali. This I may say is absolutely untrue, as to avoid complications I permitted no fire-arms to be taken in the boats from first to last.

N. S.

Inclosure 4 in No. 250.

Lieutenant Laurence to Captain Salmon.

"*Swiftsure*," *at Port Bakhir, Xeros Gulf, July* 15, 1878.

Sir,

IN compliance with your order, I have the honour to report the following circumstance that occurred in the execution of instructions I received from you to search the gulf for a boat (skiff) and two officers, Lieutenant Rolleston and Mr. Thomas (midshipman), who had left the ship in the course of Sunday afternoon, and who had last been seen under sail about 4 o'clock P.M., standing toward the mainland in the neighbourhood of Xeros Islands.

I left the ship in the steam-pinnace with the whaler in tow shortly after 11 P.M., both boats' crews being, by your orders, unarmed, and myself and the midshipman of the boat, Mr. Henderson, with side-arms only. I had also Dr. O'Callaghan, surgeon, and a Greek interpreter, with which the two boats' crews comprised in all 3 officers, 1 interpreter, 2 artificers, 1 stoker, and 8 men. I had also been provided with a letter from you in French, addressed to the Russian officer in command, requesting co-operation and assistance in finding the boat, in the event of her having been capsized or stranded along the coast.

I first proceeded to and closely investigated the three islands, but without any result of either seeing or obtaining any information. I then proceeded to a point of the coast to the west and leeward of the islands, intending to steam slowly up the coast-line, following it as closely as the somewhat shoal water admitted. I should thus be enabled, as a bright moon was shining and the water was smooth, to detect any small object either between me and the beach, or on the beach itself. After having proceeded a few hundred yards I espied objects and heard voices on the beach. I stopped the engine and steered in sufficiently close to enable me to see that one of the two boats lying on the beach was the boat we were in search of. I ordered the interpreter then to hail and ask if two officers had landed there. I received answer that two officers had landed, and had been made prisoners by the Russians stationed in the neighbourhood, and had been taken to Kadikoi.

I said that I had come in search of them, and requested permission to see the officer in command, and to be allowed to come in a small boat unarmed for that purpose. The immediate reply to this was three rifle shots in quick succession, the bullets striking the water close to the steam-pinnace. As I concluded by this they had misunderstood my mission, I again hailed and reported that I had come unarmed and in search of two officers missing from the ship.

After some hesitation they hailed that I might approach in a small boat if I brought only two men and an officer. I at once proceeded to do so, and had got about

seventy yards from the shore, when, without warning, a sharp and continuous musketry fire was opened on us. I immediately turned the boat short round, and, as quickly as we were able, retreated to the pinnace, who I ordered to take us in tow. The firing, notwithstanding this, was kept up with great rapidity at both boats, two shots striking the pinnace and all passing and falling within a few yards of the boats. I then, seeing that further attempts to communicate were useless, proceeded to the ship to make my report to you of what had taken place, returning on board the ship at 2·30 A.M.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FREDK. LAURENCE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 250.

Lieutenant Laurence to Captain Salmon.

"*Swiftsure*," *at Port Baklar, Neros Gulf, July* 16, 1878.

Sir,

IN compliance with your order, I have the honour to add to my letter of yesterday the following report of what occurred in the execution of subsequent instructions I received from you:—

I proceeded at 7·30 A.M., with the steam-pinnace and a small boat in tow, the crews being unarmed, to the north shore of the Gulf, where I had ascertained that our officers had landed.

I approached with a flag of truce flying, and on arriving within hailing distance of the shore intimated, through the interpreter, that I wished to communicate with the Russian officer in command at the outpost. I was informed that if I approached the shore I should be fired on; but after some conversation and further explanation I obtained consent to approach in the small boat with two men only. In order, however, to reassure them of our pacific intentions, and to avoid any excuse whatever for a renewal of the previous night's hostilities, I took no men in the boat, but with myself and interpreter alone pulled towards the beach, and was permitted to come within a few yards. I then showed the letter I had given me, and again informed them of our pacific intentions.

There were in all about twelve armed Circassians and some half-dozen peasants, some of which had arms.

I was informed that two officers had landed in the course of the previous afternoon to pick flowers, and had been made prisoners and sent to Kadikoi, but after breakfasting with the Commandant, about mid-day, they would be escorted back to the boat, and would be allowed to return to the ship.

I then steamed up the coast, thinking probably that I might intercept them; but seeing nothing of them, I returned to the ship at 11·30 A.M.

At 2 P.M. I again proceeded, with fresh instructions, and a letter from you to the General commanding the Russian troops, to the north shore, flying a flag of truce as before, where you ordered me to wait until sunset the arrival of the missing officers.

On our approach the same hostility was manifested by word and gesture as on the previous occasion of the same morning.

I informed them that I had no desire to land, but only requested permission to anchor my boat off until the arrival of the officers, but that I would not remain after sunset.

Permission to do this was at length given me, and I accordingly anchored in eight fathoms of water, about fifty yards from the shore.

After having lain at anchor about an hour a rifle shot was fired, which struck the water, and passed between the awning and boat.

A shot had previous to this been fired, but I had taken no notice of it, as it appeared, from its direction, that it might possibly not have been aimed at the boat.

After the second shot, however, I immediately weighed anchor, and kept off and on the shore until sunset, when I informed them that I was about to return to the ship, which I did, arriving on board at 8·30 P.M.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. L. LAURENCE.

Submitted to Rear-Admiral Sir E. Commerell, K.C.B., V.C., as supplementary to my letter of 15th July, reporting two officers detained as prisoners by the Russians.

(Signed) NOWELL SALMON, *Captain.*

Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure,"
July 16, 1878.

No. 251.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 686.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 23, 1878.

I SAW the Sultan to-day, and strongly urged him to come to some arrangement with Austria and Greece. He said he could not cede two provinces to Austria without having something in return to satisfy his people; and he gave me to understand that if Austria would agree to some kind of a Convention of alliance there would be no serious difficulty in coming to an understanding as to the occupation of Bosnia. With regard to Greece, His Majesty said that it would be impossible for him to agree to the rectification of the frontier proposed at Congress, and that Turkey would go to war rather than do so. He trusts that Her Majesty's Government will not give any support to Greece, and not interfere, except with friendly advice; and that, considering great sacrifices that he has been already called upon to make, they will use their good offices to obtain a compromise for Turkey. I gathered from this he might be induced to accept a line of frontier which gave less territory to Greece. A great Council is to be held to-morrow to take the Austrian demands into consideration. Count Zichy tells me that Count Andrassy will not consent to give any guarantee in writing, as it might compromise his position when it became known; but is willing to make any verbal declarations required on the subject.

No. 252.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—Received July 24.)

(No. 687.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 24, 1878.

SULTAN asked me yesterday whether I would object to Server Pasha being made Minister. His Majesty said that the Pasha was sincerely sorry for what had passed at Adrianople, for which he had been dismissed from office, and that he could only have spoken under the influence of drink, or of uncontrollable irritation. I know from trustworthy sources that Server Pasha has of late warmly supported English interests in Council. I told the Sultan that I would refer this matter to you.

No. 253.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, July 24, 1878.

I BELIEVE that the selection of Rustem Pasha as Governor of Eastern Roumelia would be the best that could be made.

No. 254.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

(Telegraphic.)

Athens, July 24, 1878.

I HAVE communicated to an authorized source the suggestion contained in the telegram to your Lordship from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople dated the 21st instant, as to cession to Greece of Crete instead of a portion of Thessaly and Epirus. He will take orders upon the subject.

No. 255.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 24, 1878, 6·30 P.M.*

OUR legal authorities are anxious to obtain the following agreement from the Porte. It grants nothing new, but explains Convention. Do all you possibly can to get it.

"It is understood between the High Contracting Parties, without prejudice to the express provisions of Articles 1, and 2, and 4 of the Annex of the 1st July, 1878, that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, in assigning the island to be occupied and administered by England, has thereby transferred to and vested in Her Majesty the Queen, for the term of the occupation and no longer, full powers for making laws and Conventions for the government of the island in Her Majesty's name, and for the regulation of its commercial and Consular relations and affairs free from control by the Sublime Porte."

No. 256.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 24, 1878, 6·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of this day proposing agreement, point out to Grand Vizier that we have proposed it in order to save authority of Sultan. It would be easy to obtain by an Act of Parliament the express powers of legislation we ask for, but in doing so we should be dealing a heavy blow against principle of sovereignty of Sultan in his own dominions.

No. 257.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 24, 1878, 6·50 P.M.*

WE must leave you the most entire discretion as to what you shall or shall not press upon the Porte, and with how much insistance you shall urge it, for this must depend on transient circumstances, of which you alone can judge. We will only indicate our general policy.

Our first object now is to obtain Sultan's consent to reforms required in Asia, and to draft Agreement about Cyprus I telegraph you to-day.

In second place we desire Porte to come to agreement with Greece and Austria; but, in urging these secondary objects, do not prejudice your chances of successfully negotiating the first.

No. 258.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 24, 1878, 7·5 P.M.*

INFORM Sultan secretly Her Majesty's Government have repeatedly declared to Greece that they do not mean to interfere in the question of rectification, except in the way of friendly counsel; but that they retain their opinion that some amicable arrangement with Greece would be for the interest of the Porte.

No. 259.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 857.
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 24, 1878.*

I HAVE received, and laid before the Queen, your despatch No. 870 of the 5th July, reporting that the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople had thanked your

Excellency in very warm terms for the assistance which you had rendered to him in the matter of the occupation of Bosnia by Austrian troops, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government highly approve your proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 260.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 855. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 24, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Government feel that it is right to leave your Excellency the most entire discretion as to the particular points which you shall or shall not press upon the Porte, and the degree of insistance with which you should urge them, for it is evident that much must depend upon transient circumstances, of which your Excellency is alone in a position to judge.

I desire, however, to explain to you the general principles of policy to which it is the wish of Her Majesty's Government that you should conform your action.

The first object of Her Majesty's Government at the present moment is, that the consent of the Sultan should be obtained to the necessary reforms in Asia, as well as to the Draft Agreement respecting the administration of the Island of Cyprus, copy of which I have inclosed, together with instructions, in my despatch No. 851 of this day's date.

Her Majesty's Government are further most anxious that the Porte should come to an agreement with the Governments of Austria and Greece upon the important points still in dispute with those Governments; but, in urging these secondary objects, Her Majesty's Government wish that your Excellency should not prejudice your chance of successfully negotiating the two first, which appear to them to be of primary importance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 261.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 857.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 24, 1878.*

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to take an opportunity of acquainting His Majesty the Sultan secretly with the fact, that repeated declarations have been made by Her Majesty's Government to that of Greece, to the effect that the only interference they contemplated with respect to the subject of rectification of frontiers was by friendly counsel and advice; you will, however, inform His Majesty at the same time that Her Majesty's Government hold to their opinion that the interests of the Porte would be best consulted by some amicable arrangement being come to with Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 262.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 307.)
My Lord, *Rome, July 22, 1878.*

THE Society of the "Italia irredenta" (unredeemed Italy) held a meeting yesterday in Rome for the purpose of denouncing the policy of the Government with regard to the Treaty of Berlin. Though attended by some three or four thousand people, this meeting passed off quietly; in the evening, however, a few unruly characters endeavoured to make a demonstration in front of the Austro-Hungarian Embassy, when the police appeared and promptly dispersed them. I may safely add,

that the majority of the Roman people highly disapprove such senseless proceedings, which they fear may seriously embarrass the Government.

Inclosed herewith I have the honour to inclose a French translation from the "Italie" of the proceedings of this meeting. It offers a fair specimen of the opinions expressed and the language held by these would-be redeemers of Italy at the different meetings simultaneously held in the principal towns of the kingdom.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 262.

Extract from "L'Italie" of July 22, 1878.

VOICI le manifeste qu'a rédigé le comité promoteur, et dont la Questure a interdit, dit-on, l'affichage sur les murs.

"Romains!

"Le principe des nationalités qui nous a donné la vie a été violé au Congrès de Berlin.

"La Grèce, la Bosnie, l'Herzégovine, la Roumanie et tous les peuples qui aspiraient à leur unité et à leur indépendance ont été trahis. Vous, que le cri de "Rome ou la mort!" a délivrés du prêtre et de l'étranger, et qu'il a rendus à la vie pour l'accomplissement de grandes œuvres, vous devez faire entendre aujourd'hui à l'Europe et au monde que Rome est une foi—la foi dans la solidarité des peuples—et que c'est cette foi qui inspire vos délibérations.

"La voix de ceux qui ont le plus souffert pour que Rome fût rendue à l'Italie, la voix de Garibaldi, d'Avezzana, de Salli, de Campanella vous appelle aujourd'hui pour accomplir un devoir qui est, peut-être, le précurseur d'un devoir encore plus impérieux, et à l'accomplissement duquel vous pourriez être appelés demain.

"Répondez à leur appel, en accourant en foule pour affirmer le droit sacré de l'Italie sur Trente et Trieste.

"Romains!

"Souvenez-vous des sentiments que vous éprouviez, il y a peu d'années encore, chaque fois qu'on vous annonçait que l'Italie pensait à vous. Souvenez-vous que nos frères de Trente et de Trieste attendent de nous aujourd'hui, avec une grande anxiété, un mot de foi, d'espérance, de promesse; accourez nombreux au comice et faites que les défilés des Alpes Rhétiques et des Alpes Juliennes retentissent de l'écho du cri de Rome, de la mère-patrie."

Inclosure 2 in No. 262.

Extract from "L'Italie" of July 22, 1878.

LE banc de la présidence occupe naturellement le centre de la scène; derrière se tiennent les représentants de quelques sociétés ouvrières et ceux du Cercle Républicain, avec leurs bannières. Le drapeau rouge du Cercle Républicain est salué par de bruyants applaudissements.

Menotti Garibaldi ouvre la séance:—

"Ma modeste parole, dit-il, ne sait pas trouver d'expressions pour remercier les amis qui ont voulu me faire l'honneur de me choisir comme président de cette assemblée.

"Citoyens, nous sommes ici réunis pour protester contre le Traité de Berlin, qui n'est qu'une seconde édition du Traité de 1815. (Très-bien.)

"On crie que la paix est faite; mais comment peut-il y avoir la paix entre l'agneau et le loup?

"Rome accomplit aujourd'hui un devoir sacré. C'est à Rome qu'il appartient d'envoyer une parole d'espérance à Trieste et à Trente, où gémissent nos frères. Tant que ces deux provinces ne seront pas rendues à la mère-patrie, la paix est impossible." (Vifs applaudissements.)

Menotti Garibaldi a prononcé ces quelques paroles avec son calme, nous dirions même avec sa froideur habituelle. Son attitude a contrasté étrangement avec celle des orateurs qui l'ont suivi.

M. Zuccari, qui paraît remplir les fonctions de Secrétaire de la présidence, dit qu'il serait trop long de lire tous les télégrammes d'adhésion que le comité a reçus. (Approbation sur le banc de la presse.) Le nombre de ces télégrammes s'élève, dit-il, à plus de 200.

Le citoyen Matteo Imbriani, qui personnifie en quelque sorte la revendication de Trente et de Trieste, a pris ensuite la parole et s'est exprimé à peu près en ces termes:—

"Romains! C'est avec la douleur dans l'âme que je promène mon regard sur cette assemblée, sans y découvrir un personnage qui avait aujourd'hui sa place marquée au milieu de nous. Vous l'avez deviné, c'est de Benedetto Cairoli que je veux parler. C'est ici qu'il devait être aujourd'hui et non à la Consulta. (Marques d'approbation.) Qui aurait dit, il y a quelques mois, que c'est de lui que devaient nous venir des excitations au silence? Il aurait voulu nous fermer la bouche, lui! Que les temps sont changés! La monarchie nous réservait la douleur de nous faire assister à cette transformation de sentiments chez l'homme que la démocratie a toujours considéré comme un de ses frères les plus illustres.

"La douleur que j'en éprouve ne peut être compensée, croyez-moi, que par celle que m'inspire la honte qu'on nous a infligée à Berlin. (Très-bien!)

"Ah! on voudrait que nous oubliions. Ils s'abusent étrangement nos gouvernants. Non, nous n'oublierons jamais.

"Le Gouvernement a fait tout ce qui dépendait de lui pour empêcher cette réunion populaire. On nous a interdit d'afficher la proclamation du comité; mais je vois que cela n'a servi à rien, puisque vous êtes accourus nombreux à notre appel."

L'orateur entre finalement en matière. Le citoyen Imbriani parle avec feu, avec conviction. Il s'agite, et sa voix tremble à certains moments:—

"On nous dit: Que pouvait faire M. Corti à Berlin en présence d'une ligue de quatre Puissances, qui avaient déjà conclu le marché des peuples? Qu'est-ce qu'il devait faire! Il devait répondre ceci: 'Vous voulez agrandir une Puissance qui est notre ennemie, qui est à nos portes, qui est sur nos terres? Faites, mais donnez-nous nos frontières naturelles pour notre sécurité!' Si le Congrès se montrait contraire à notre demande, le Comte Corti devait se retirer et l'Italie était prête à le soutenir, car l'Italie n'a jamais refusé de faire des sacrifices. Si on avait fait appel à ses enfants, tous se seraient levés comme un seul homme.

"Il est temps aujourd'hui de parler clairement.

"Nous n'obtiendrons jamais ces deux provinces par la persuasion; nos droits seront toujours méconnus si nous ne les affirmons pas d'une manière moins platonique.

"Ne comptons pas sur l'Allemagne. On a trop oublié en ces derniers temps quelles sont les tendances de ce pays.

"L'Allemagne ne nous donnera jamais Trieste, car elle la veut pour elle. Cela s'est vu dès 1859 lorsque la Prusse arrêtait à Villafranca les armées coalisées de France et d'Italie. (Très-bien!)

"Le Comte Corti a signé le Traité de Berlin; mais l'Italie, par la voix de ses enfants, dit aujourd'hui qu'elle revendique ses droits et qu'elle ne ratifie point ce Traité." (Vifs applaudissements.) L'orateur est rappelé.

Le citoyen Fratti, le plus élégant de tous les orateurs populaires, succède au citoyen Imbriani. Sa voix est faible, mais il a un fort beau gilet blanc et son geste est aussi noble qu'étudié; le public demande qu'il parle un peu plus fort. L'orateur en souriant remplit un verre d'eau et l'avale d'un seul trait.

"Romains, dit-il, on nous a fait assister il y a quelques jours à un bien triste spectacle, à un marché de peuples; mais on nous réservait une autre surprise, l'autorité a interdit l'affichage de l'annonce de cette réunion. C'est de la politique de 'borsajoli'" ("pick-pockets.") (Applaudissements et cris.)

Menotti Garibaldi trouve que ce début ne promet rien de bon; il fait signe à l'orateur de modérer un peu son langage, mais le citoyen Fratti ne s'en aperçoit et poursuit sur le même ton:—

"Il y a des gens qui nous disent d'être prudents, de calculer froidement la portée de ces manifestations. Mais nous répondons, non! Si nous avions suivi ces conseils l'Italie ne serait pas faite aujourd'hui; l'Italie serait encore un cimetière et nous aurions encore le dos meurtri par les coups de bâton de l'étranger."

La foule trouve cette phrase heureuse et se livre à des applaudissements frénétiques.

"Corti, ce modéré inconnu, a apposé sa signature après celle de Beaconsfield, un histrion, d'Andrassy, un marchand, et de Bismarck, l'entremetteur suprême.

"Ce Traité est une honte pour l'Italie; on devait l'épargner à notre patrie. Cette honte doit être marquée au front de la monarchie. Bravo! bravo!)

"La diplomatie est sœur de la monarchie; elle corrompt par conséquent les citoyens les plus honnêtes qui tombent sous ses griffes.

"Ceux-là nous conseillent la prudence. Répondez-leur que d'Italie est la terre des initiatives.

"Opposons aux vils intrigues des rois la sainte alliance des peuples."

Cette phrase produit l'effet qu'en attendait l'orateur; elle a soulevé un tonnerre d'applaudissements.

La parole est au citoyen Barboni. C'est le type incarné de l'orateur populaire.

"Vous n'attendez pas de moi des paroles ronflants, dit-il; vous savez que je ne me pique pas de savoir faire de beaux discours. Vous me connaissez assez pour cela. Mais il n'est pas nécessaire d'employer la rhétorique pour exprimer ce qu'on pense.

"Je ne tiens qu'à me faire comprendre. Là se borne mon ambition.

"Voyons, entre nous, comment qualifier la conduite de ces gens qu'on appelle des diplomates. Et d'abord, qui sont-ils ces diplomates? On dit que ce mot est synonyme d'homme de génie. Mais peut-on appeler ainsi ces gens-là? Qu'ont-ils fait? Ont-ils jamais inventé une machine pour l'agriculture? Ont-ils jamais inventé une machine pour la fabrication du drap? (Rires prolongés.)

"Les diplomates, d'après moi, ce sont des gens qui passent leur temps à étudier de moyens de mettre dedans les peuples ('imbrogliare i popoli').

(Le public rit et l'orateur aussi.)

"On m'a dit: 'Si vous voulez savoir ce qu'est la diplomatie, lisez les livres que les diplomates ont écrits. Eh bien! je les ai lus ces livres, et je n'y ai rien compris du tout."

Cette confession continue à provoquer les rires.

"Il me semble les voir ces diplomates discutant ensemble la manière de dépecer les peuples. Toi, tu auras ce morceau; toi, tu auras celui-ci. Quant à toi, qui veux avoir quelque chose, nous t'engageons à t'en aller avec les mains vides, sans quoi nous te ———"

Ici l'orateur laisse échapper un mot qui peut offusquer les quelques dames qui sont dans la salle. Le citoyen Barboni le comprend et ajoute aussitôt: Pardon!

"Il faut se réveiller, il faut agir. Mais le Gouvernement nous dit: 'Je n'ai pas d'armée.' Comment, vous n'avez pas d'armée! C'est à présent que vous nous le dites? Mais qu'avez-vous fait de tous les millions que nous vous avons donnés?

"Vous dites que ce qu'on n'obtient pas quelquefois avec les armes, on peut l'obtenir par des alliances habilement préparées. Ah! oui! elles sont belles vos alliances.

"Lorsque Victor-Emmanuel mourut, l'Empereur d'Allemagne envoya son illustrissime fils à Rome pour accompagner le défunt à sa dernière demeure. Ils viennent pleurer sur les cadavres; mais ils se moquent des vivants. Et comme on s'est moqué de nous à Berlin!

"Trêve aux plaisanteries! Parlons sérieusement. Il faut que nous commencions aujourd'hui une agitation générale pour la revendication des deux provinces Italiennes soumises à l'Autriche. Il faut la guerre; maintenant ou plus tard, il la faut. C'est une nécessité." Des représentants des sociétés ouvrières vont serrer la main à l'orateur.

Le citoyen Imbriani reprend la parole pour donner lecture de trois télégrammes, l'un du Comité Trentin, l'autre du Comité Triestin, et le troisième de Giuseppe Garibaldi.

Le télégramme de Garibaldi fait monter l'enthousiasme au délire. On agite les chapeaux et les mouchoirs, et on crie avec force de tous côtés, "Vive Garibaldi!" Voici le télégramme du Général, dont le conseil est peut-être plus facile à donner qu'à suivre:—

"Les esclaves ont le droit de s'insurger. Que les Triestins prennent les montagnes."

"Rappelons-nous ces mots," dit l'orateur, "et crions de toutes nos forces, 'Vive Trente!' 'Vive Trieste!'"

Le citoyen Zuccari parle enfin pour développer l'ordre du jour que le comité propose à l'approbation de l'assemblée. Le citoyen Zuccari voudrait le peuple armé.

"Ah!" dit-il, "si chaque citoyen avait eu une carabine M. Corti n'aurait pas signé le Traité de Berlin, parcequ'il aurait su comment on aurait accueilli ce Traité.

"Remplaçons les crucifix par des carabines. Il faut que tout le monde, au lieu d'avoir près de son lit un Christ ou une image de Madone, ait une bonne carabine."

Un armurier qui est derrière nous applaudit avec vigueur, et dit à son voisin: "Cela ferait bien mon affaire."

Voici le texte de l'ordre du jour, qui a été approuvé par acclamation:—

"Le peuple de Rome, réuni en assemblée solennelle le 21 Juillet, 1878, en présence de violations du droit de nationalité et de l'offense faite par le Congrès de Berlin à la souveraineté du peuple, convaincu qu'aux artifices de la diplomatie doivent succéder la raison du droit et la solidarité des nations; qu'on ne fait point impunément un trafic de peuples, lorsque chaque citoyen est armé et possède la liberté de suffrage; que les Italiens soumis à l'étranger ont le droit d'être réunis à la mère-patrie, affirme sa solidarité avec les peuples qui ont été considérés comme une marchandise par le Congrès de Berlin, rappelle à l'Italie qu'il y a des terres Italiennes qui sont encore soumises à la domination de l'étranger, et manifeste sa confiance dans un avenir prochain de justice et de vérité."

Menotti Garibaldi remercie ensuite l'assemblée de la manifestation sympathique qu'elle vient de faire pour son père et déclare le meeting levé.

La foule applaudit, et se sépare aux cris de "Vive Garibaldi!" "Vive Trieste!" "Vive Trente!" et "Vive la guerre!"

Dehors, aucun rassemblement ne s'est formé.

No. 263.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 25.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, July 24, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a letter from Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay, dated at Suda Bay, the 30th June last, inclosing correspondence which explains his reasons for having sent Her Majesty's ship "Black Prince" to Rethymo to reassure and protect the Christians in case of an attack by the Mussulman fanatics.

I am, &c.

(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 263.

Vice-Admiral Lord J. Hay to Vice-Admiral Horsby.

Sir,

"*Minotaur*," *in Suda Bay, June* 30, 1878.

THE inclosed correspondence will explain the grounds under which "Black Prince" was detached to Rethymo. I am inclined to believe that these alarms are not imaginary. The Mussulman population is in a very excited state, and great judgment, together with a display of force, is apparently necessary to stop a possible outbreak of fanaticism such as the Turkish authorities, with the best intention, might not be able to control.

2. The condition of things at Rethymo, for instance, is as follows:—

"About 600 Mussulmans were gathered outside the walls of the town, who insisted on the Government carrying out certain measures, the principal being—

"That the Christian peasants be no longer allowed to enter the towns.

"That the Mussulmans be everywhere allowed to carry arms.

"That the policemen who are in prison for having pillaged a village near Rethymo be at once released.

"That their Governor, a Mussulman, be dismissed.

"That three days be allowed for these demands to be complied with, and in case of refusal they intend doing something very bad."

It may be assumed that Consular authorities would practically be safe, but it is melancholy to think of the possible risk to the Christian population in these towns.

The Governor-General seems most anxious to maintain order, but his position is a most difficult one.

Affairs are outwardly comparatively quiet at Canea, but much alarm is still felt among the Christian population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 263.

Consul Sandwith to Vice-Admiral Lord J. Hay.

My Lord, *Chalepa, Crete, June* 30, 1878.

HIS Excellency the Governor-General has just sent me a telegram received from the Christian inhabitants of Rethymo, expressing their fears of the intentions of the Mussulmans, and begging his Excellency to take some efficient steps for their protection.

The Governor remarks on this telegram that, though the report of the Chief of Police is less alarming, he is not quite sure whether the means at his disposal will prove efficacious for the preservation of order. I have, therefore, no longer any hesitation in requesting your Lordship to despatch to Rethymo without delay one of the ironclads belonging to your squadron for the purpose of reassuring the Christian population, and, if necessary, of affording them such protection as the nature of the case allows.

Trusting to the assurance which your Lordship has already given me of your readiness to detach a vessel from your squadron for the purpose now indicated, I am telegraphing to the Acting Consular Agent, Mr. Calucci, to inform him that the English Admiral will probably shortly despatch an ironclad to Rethymo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 263.

Orders addressed to Captain His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

(Confidential.)
(Memo.) "*Minotaur*," *in Suda Bay, June* 30, 1878.

THE inclosed copy of a letter, addressed to me by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Canea, will explain to your Royal Highness the present state of affairs at Rethymo.

You will be pleased to proceed there immediately in Her Majesty's ship "Black Prince," under your command, anchoring off the town and entering into communication with the British Consular Agent, Mr. Calucci.

You will take an early opportunity of waiting on the Governor, and you will acquaint him that I have sent you to anchor off Rethymo, as "I have learnt from the Governor-General and Mr. Consul Sandwith that some of the population, in and outside of Rethymo, are in an excited state, thus creating alarm in the minds of the foreign community. You will observe to him that it is much to be desired that your Royal Highness shall be able at an early date to report that the excitement referred to had settled down, and that the Christian population generally had become reassured as to their safety."

In the event of an actual outbreak of fanaticism taking place, you will use your judgment in taking such effective measures for the protection of the lives and property of the European community as the case may admit of, affording them refuge on board your ship.

You will also receive any of the Christian population who may be flying for their lives, and in so doing you may assume that you are acting in accordance with the

humane intentions of the Ottoman Government. You will communicate with me by telegraph, using cypher (Vocabulary Signal Book), and you will remain at Rethymo until recalled by signal or by other means.

(Signed) JOHN HAY, *Vice-Admiral Commanding.*

No. 264.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 25.)

(No. 688.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 24, 1878.

I INFORMED the Grand Vizier of Consul Sandwith's telegram of 21st instant, stating that Provisional Government of Crete had sent him a petition soliciting mediation of England with the Porte to give a new form of Government in conformity with conditions previously refused.

Those conditions were intended to be temporary; but the Grand Vizier states to me that he is ready to come to an understanding with Her Majesty's Government for a form of Government in the island which may lead to the re-establishment of peace and satisfy reasonable requirements of Christians.

No. 265.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 25.)

(No. 689.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 24, 1878.

COUNT ZICHY has informed Grand Vizier to-day, that he is instructed to propose to the Porte these categorical conditions for occupation of Bosnia: that the sovereignty of the Sultan shall be acknowledged; that the occupation shall be declared to be temporary, and that a written guarantee shall be given by Austria against attack upon Turkey by Montenegro and Servia, but not by Bulgaria. Count Andrassy refuses to enter into a Convention on this latter subject. If the Porte will not agree to these conditions, Austrian army will enter place in a day or two in a friendly spirit, but prepared at the same time to resist any attack made upon it.

No. 266.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 25.)

(Telegraphic.)

Belgrade, July 24, 1878.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 21, Commercial, am I authorized to submit to the Roumanian Government the draft of Treaty of Commerce which accompanied that despatch, reserving distinctly for further consideration all that refers to Article III? Likewise not making it a final proposal?

No. 267.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 25.)

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, July 24, 1878.

THERE is no likelihood of the Austro-Hungarian Government agreeing to such a Convention as that spoken of in Mr. Layard's telegram of the 21st.

They will not engage that the Civil Administration shall remain in the hands of the Turkish functionaries in the part of Bosnia which, according to the Treaty, is to be administered by Austria; but Count Andrassy tells me that it is his intention to retain as many of them as possible.

He also told me that though he was not disposed to make a Convention guaranteeing Turkey against attacks from Servia and Montenegro, he will convey his intention to do so by an official note.

He is anxious that the occupation should take place with the appearance of being an assistance to the Porte and not as an hostile act; but as the decision of Congress will certainly be carried out, it will not be prudent for the Porte to prevent it from taking place under the best conditions that can be obtained.

I may add, confidentially, that I know Turkish Plenipotentiaries who are now here to be strongly of this opinion.

No. 269.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 171.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 25, 1878.*

TURKISH Plenipotentiaries being still without instructions for making arrangements about Bosnian occupation, Count Andrassy has informed them that the Austrian troops will enter the province on the 28th or 29th, as the present state of uncertainty cannot be allowed to continue.

No. 269.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 690.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 25, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Consul Blunt, dated yesterday evening:—

"A considerable portion of crops and some vineyards of two Turkish villages and of nine large farms belonging to Turkish owners, and rented on joint returns by Christian peasants, one of which farms includes 18th lot of Sophades, were destroyed by fire last week in district of Carlitza and Pharsala. It is suspected, but not ascertained, that these conflagrations, which have caused equal loss to Turks and Christians, were acts of incendiaries, and two native Greek peasants have been arrested with strong suspicion against them.

"Mr. Longworth being in this direction, I expect a report from him on the subject."

No. 270.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July 25, 1878.*

ACCORDING to an authorized source my communication of the suggestion of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople was read with great surprise, as it contains no certain basis with regard to Crete, and as a strong conviction exists that the best basis, which must not be abandoned by Greece, is that of the resolutions of the Congress, and there is a firm determination to await a definitive solution with patience.

No. 271.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 25, 1878, 5:40 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 683 of the 22nd instant, Her Majesty's Government decidedly recommend the selection of Rustem Pasha as Governor of Eastern Roumelia.

No. 272.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 25, 1878, 5:45 P.M.*

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram of 24th instant, repeated to you this day, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government Turkey would act very unwisely in not closing upon the terms which Count Zichy is offering.

No. 273.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 25, 1878, 5:45 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 687 of the 24th instant, Her Majesty's Government would consider the appointment of Server Pasha as Grand Vizier or Foreign Minister unwise, but see no objection to his having other office.

No. 274.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 861.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 25, 1878.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 22nd instant, No. 683, Confidential, in which your Excellency informed me that the Governor of the Lebanon, Rustem Pasha, was likely to be transferred to the Governorship of Eastern Roumelia, and that in your opinion such an appointment would be a good one, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government, looking at the past services of Rustem Pasha and the reputation he enjoys, concur in this opinion, and decidedly recommend that he should be selected to fill the position in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 275.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 865.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 25, 1878.*

YOU will have learnt from Sir H. Elliot's telegraphic report of the 24th instant, which has this day been repeated to your Excellency, that it is not probable that the Austro-Hungarian Government will agree to the Convention for the occupation of Bosnia as proposed by the Porte.

In view, however, of Count Andrassy's assurances as to his intentions, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it would be very unwise on the part of the Porte not to close with the terms which Count Zichy has been instructed to offer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 276.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 109.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 17, 1878.*

THE reported decision of the Congress with regard to Crete has created great disappointment here amongst all classes.

A Cretan who has lately held a seat in the Greek Cabinet called upon me this morning, and having bitterly complained of the fate of his countrymen, said that the insurrection in Crete would be kept alive in the mountains, even if the Christians in the plains were forced to submit to the Turks.

The Turkish Minister told me yesterday that he had heard that the Cretans in Athens had advised the Cretans to continue the insurrection, and that he had reported this to his Government by yesterday's mail to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 277.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 411.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 14th instant, on the subject of the reinforcements sent by the Porte to Thessaly and Epirus, in consequence of the superior numbers of Greek troops near the frontier and the attitude taken up by the Greek Government, that I have been assured that the number of troops on the immediate line is not more than 4,000 or 5,000, the remainder being stationed chiefly at Agrynion and Chalcis.

It appears that since the decision of the Congress with respect to the frontiers of Greece has been made known, the Porte has decided to increase her forces in Thessaly and Epirus.

I have communicated the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 278.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 412.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 17, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 411 of to-day's date, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have made inquiries of military men and of the President of the Council of Ministers as to the number of Greek troops on the frontiers, and that I am informed that there are about 4,000 or 5,000 men on the immediate frontier line, and that the rest of the troops are chiefly at Chalcis and Arrynion.

M. Coumoundouros told me, in reply to a question I addressed to him, that there had been no advance of troops to the frontiers since the greater number of them had been withdrawn about three months ago.

The troops on the frontiers appear to be there to maintain order and to prevent brigandage, and not for offensive purposes. The Congress having, however, led Greece to expect an extension of frontiers, the Government can perhaps hardly at present reduce the military force of the country until they can form some idea of the number of troops that may be required if Greece obtains an extension of her frontiers, or until she sees what turn the negotiations are likely to take.

The Porte appears to have decided to send more troops to Thessaly, and a squadron under Mantborp Bey to Prevesa, since the recommendation of the Congress as to the Greek frontiers has been made known; and the "Ethnikon Pneuma," a semi-official paper, states in its number of yesterday that the Turks are busily engaged in raising fortifications in all important points near Domoko.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 279.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 414.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that an official communication has this day been addressed by the Greek Government to the Turkish Minister here, requesting his Excellency to urge his Government to appoint Commissioners for the regulation of the new line of frontier, in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

The Greek Government have also sent instructions to their Minister at Constantinople on the subject.

M. Coumoundouros expressed the hope that this question would receive the personal support of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have communicated the above to Sir Austen Layard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 280.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 415.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I to-day questioned M. Coumoundouros as to a rumoured Italian-Greek alliance, and as to a report that Italy would defend the coasts of Greece in the event of complications arising with Turkey, and that his Excellency replied that, Greece having all Europe on her side, there was no necessity for her seeking a separate alliance with any other Power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 281.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 691.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, July 25, 1878.

WITH regard to occupation of Bosnia, the decision of the Council held yesterday was to adhere, with some slight modifications, to instructions sent to Turkish Plenipotentiaries, the substance of which were sent in my despatch No. 898, and the Sultan has approved. Orders will probably be sent to the Plenipotentiaries at Vienna to return to Constantinople.

Grand Vizier states that, according to last reports, the Mussulman population of Bosnia is resolved to resist the entry of Austrian troops.

No. 282.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 692.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, July 26, 1878.

THE want of money here and consequent distress are very great. Sultan and Grand Vizier would be very grateful if Her Majesty's Government would be instrumental in helping Turkey to contract a loan on the security of the revenues of Cyprus. (They?) earnestly beg your Lordship to communicate confidentially with Musurus Pasha on the subject.

If we could help the Turks to obtain some money at this moment it would greatly add to our popularity in the country. Proposals are being made to the Porte for a loan, but upon what it considers exorbitant terms.

No. 283.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 26.)

(Telegraphic.)
Belgrade, July 26, 1878.

ROUMANIA has confidentially informed the Servian Government that, if agreeable, their Agent here will be made Minister Plenipotentiary.

No. 284.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 693.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 26, 1878.

I HAVE communicated to the Sultan, secretly, your telegram of the 21th instant. His Majesty begs me to express his gratitude to your Lordship for it, and to assure you that it is his most earnest desire to avoid any further effusion of blood and the outbreak of fresh hostilities, and that he will do his best to come to an understanding with Greece which may be consistent with the interests of his country.

No. 285.

Sir G. Wolseley to Colonel Stanley.

(Telegraphic.)

Larnaka, July 26, 1878.

NO quantity of ship rations here for native forces. I must telegraph to Bombay for them if forces are to leave. Since receipt of telegram I have consulted the three Indian Brigadiers and the Indian Doctor in charge; all say that to send forces hence to India before 1st October would be dangerous to life, as ships must be battened down in monsoon. No horses could live below under those conditions; therefore, if these forces go now, cavalry and artillery must dispose of horses here. They say that this would disgust the men; that to send them back at this trying season would set the native army for over against foreign service, and that it should not be attempted [illegible]

No. 286.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 26, 1878, 5·10 p.m.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 692, of to-day, Her Majesty's Government would be glad to know from you what is the amount of the loan which the Porte desires to raise.

No. 287.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 897 A.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, July 26, 1878.

MUSURUS PASHA called on me yesterday. He expressed an apprehension that when the period of occupation fixed by the Treaty of Berlin should have elapsed, Russia would [illegible] Roumelia and Bulgaria.

I told him that I did not in the least degree share these apprehensions; as I believed Russia to be thoroughly determined to carry out the engagement she has [illegible] projects of the kind. But, I added, even if this were otherwise, and reasons existed for suspecting the sincerity of Russia, I could see in such a possibility no cause of apprehension for the Sultan. It would only be necessary for him to call the fleets of his allies into the Black Sea, in order to place the Russian armies in a position which would be practically untenable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 288.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 916. Secret.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 16, 1878.

THE delay which has taken place in the exchange of the ratifications of the Convention of Yildiz of the 4th ultimo requires some explanation.

As soon as I was informed by your Lordship that you desired the exchange to be effected at Constantinople, I requested the Grand Vizier to make arrangements for it. But before giving directions for drawing up the necessary instrument, his Highness was desirous of seeing the form adopted in the Queen's ratification. When it arrived the Convention was still secret, and it was considered advisable not to entrust the preparation of the Sultan's ratification to the department at the Porte charged with such matters, but to the head of that department, in whom Safvet Pasha had full confidence, and who was instructed to do himself all that was required. Unfortunately, this functionary was confined to his house from illness, and it was not until Sunday, the 7th instant, that Mr. Sandison was able to see him. In the meanwhile, I had been constantly pressing for the exchange of the ratifications, as the time named for it in the Treaty had elapsed.

The preparation of the Sultan's ratification, which, as your Lordship will perceive, is a masterpiece of Turkish caligraphy, took several days, and it was only by the incessant exertions of Mr. Sandison, and by having the English text of the Treaty copied at the Embassy, that the instrument was at last completed. It was then sent to the Palace for the Sultan's signature; now necessary to documents to which formerly only the Imperial seal was attached on the Sultan's verbal order. But His Majesty objected to sign, on the ground that the Convention was not sufficiently explicit as to the nature of the reforms that were to be introduced into His Majesty's Asiatic territories for the protection and better government of their Christian and other populations. His Majesty feared that England might demand certain changes which would affect and be opposed to his sovereign rights and prerogatives. Two days were lost in discussing these objections with Safvet Pasha, and indirectly, through Mr. Sandison, with the Sultan; but His Majesty would not give way. Last Sunday the Grand Vizier begged me to meet him at the Palace in the middle of the day, by which time he hoped he should be able to induce His Majesty to consent to the exchange of ratifications. I accordingly went to Yildiz, where I found his Highness much put out by the refusal of the Sultan to accept the act of ratification submitted to him. His Majesty insisted that certain reforms, of which he sent me a list, should be specified in the Convention, and that, in another article, it should be declared that Her Majesty's Government, in asking for these reforms, did not intend to infringe upon ("porter atteinte à") his sovereign rights. I replied that any addition to, or alteration in, the Convention was impossible, and that I could accept nothing but the pure and simple ratification of it. As His Majesty required some distinct understanding upon the two points which he had mentioned, I proposed that, after the exchange of ratifications, I should make a declaration, or enter into a protocol with the Grand Vizier, to the effect that, in proposing the Convention of the 4th June, England had no intention of infringing upon the sovereign rights of His Majesty, or, if His Majesty preferred it, that his Highness should declare, in the name of His Majesty, that in accepting the Convention His Majesty did not surrender those rights. As regards the reforms to be introduced into His Majesty's Asiatic territories, I offered to make a further declaration that they did not go beyond the application of the principles which His Majesty himself had proclaimed when he gave the Constitution to his people, and to the reforms granted to Turkey by the different Imperial decrees, or "Hats," which had been issued by His Majesty himself and by his predecessors.

These proposals did not, however, satisfy the Sultan, who continued to insist upon something being added to the above effect to the ratifications themselves. More than five hours were passed in discussing these and various other suggestions for meeting His Majesty's wishes. I did not see His Majesty; the Grand Vizier and His Majesty's Private Secretary, Ali Fuad Bey, going backwards and forwards to him to submit explanations, and to endeavour to induce him to give way. His Majesty had said that he desired to see me after the matter had been settled. As it could not be, I requested the First Chamberlain to tell him that I was tired out by the useless discussion that had taken place, and that I hoped he would graciously excuse me from waiting upon him. I then left the palace,

but I had scarcely reached home after dark when I received, as I had expected, a telegram from the Sultan's Private Secretary, stating that he had been ordered by His Majesty to express to me His Majesty's deep regret that, owing to the lateness of the hour, I had been obliged to leave the palace without seeing him, and his earnest desire to come to an understanding with myself and the Grand Vizier for the settlement of the question which had been under discussion. His Majesty begged me to return to the palace the following day at about 11 A.M.

I went to Yildiz at the hour appointed. The Grand Vizier was waiting for me. Instead of the Private Secretary, Ali Fuad Bey, Ghazi Osman Pasha was employed by His Majesty in communicating with me. Safvet Pasha told me, with a look of despair, that the Sultan still held to the insertion in the ratifications of a condition reserving his sovereign rights, although he had given up his idea that the reforms referred to in the Convention should be specified. I said that, although willing to make a declaration as to the reservation of the Sultan's sovereign rights, I could not consent to any condition being inserted in the ratifications. Upon this question there again ensued a discussion which lasted for nearly five hours. I made various suggestions, as did the Grand Vizier, calculated to meet the Sultan's views, but His Majesty was not satisfied with any of them. Safvet Pasha informed me that Namyk Pasha and others were endeavouring to persuade the Sultan that Sadyk Pasha had deceived him about the Convention, and had not properly explained it to him. They had represented to him that its real object was to deprive him of his territories and his sovereign rights in Asia, and that it was a part of the Agreement which had been secretly entered into between England, Austria, and Russia for the partition of his Empire. His Highness said that he had exhausted every argument to remove the impression they had made upon the Sultan's mind, but without success.

Whilst we were discussing, the Sultan sent Ghazi Osman Pasha to desire the Grand Vizier to consult Namyk Pasha, who had just arrived at the palace, as to a suggestion that I had made and which his Highness had approved. Safvet Pasha requested Osman to tell His Majesty that he did not require the opinion of Namyk, who had not the capacity to give one worth having, and who, not being a Minister, had no right to interfere in the matter. His Highness hinted that His Majesty might be informed that if he were not satisfied with the advice of his Grand Vizier, he was ready to resign his office.

I thought it better, under the circumstances, to see the Sultan myself. I had a very long interview with His Majesty, during which he dwelt at full length upon the responsibility that he was incurring towards his people, his successors, and the members of his family, in surrendering [illegible] sovereign rights, and upon the absolute necessity that these rights should be specially reserved in the Convention that he was about to ratify. It was not, he said, to the occupation and administration of the Island of Cyprus to which he had any objection, but what he feared was that Sadyk Pasha had purposely entered into an Agreement with England for the introduction of reforms into Asiatic Turkey, in order to carry out the scheme, which he had openly avowed, of controlling his authority and depriving him of his rights and prerogatives.

I assured him that Her Majesty's Government had every desire to respect his sovereign rights, and I referred to your Lordship's published despatch No. 675 of the 24th May, giving me instructions to propose the Convention, which was explicit on this point. As regards the reforms that Her Majesty's Government desired to see introduced into Asiatic Turkey for the better government and protection of his subjects, whether Mussulmans or Christians, more could not possibly be required from him than what he had himself promised to his people in the Constitution, which he had, of his free will, accorded to them, and which, he had repeatedly assured me, it was his firm intention to respect and uphold. He had only, I said, to apply the just and liberal principles laid down in that fundamental law of the Empire, and to carry out fully and seriously the reforms already guaranteed to his subjects by Imperial Decrees, and I was convinced that Her Majesty's Government would be satisfied. It was not so much new reforms, I said, that were required, but the execution of those which had already been promised and announced.

After a good deal of discussion the Sultan said that he would waive his demand for any addition either to the Convention or the ratifications, and would confine himself to adding, in his own handwriting, to his signature, some words to the effect that he ratified on condition that his sovereign rights were not infringed.

I told His Majesty that much would depend upon the words used; that I was not authorized to accept any condition on the exchange of ratifications; and that, as far as my diplomatic experience went, any addition to the signature of a Sovereign such as he proposed was, at least, unusual. He then read a few words which he had written in his pocket-book, and which he proposed to add to his signature. But the matter, he said, was one of such grave importance that he could not come to a decision upon it without consulting his Council, which he had summoned to meet that evening. His Majesty promised that he would give me a final answer next morning.

There was nothing to do but to consent to this further delay. Safvet Pasha told me that he would exercise all his influence to induce the members of the Council to decide in favour of the immediate exchange of ratifications in the usual form, without any conditions. If, his Highness said, the Council did not agree to this, he should at once resign.

The Council sat during the whole night, discussing this matter and the Greek question. Early yesterday morning Savas Pasha, the Under-Secretary of State, came to me from Safvet Pasha to say that the Sultan still insisted upon adding some words, in his own hand, to his signature, to the effect that in ratifying the Convention he reserved his sovereign rights, and that His Majesty wished me, on the other hand, to make a declaration that no attempt would be made to infringe these rights. His Highness implored me to consent, if possible, to the Sultan's condition, which nothing would induce him to withdraw. If I did not, his Highness authorized Savas Pasha to say he would have to resign, and grave complications might ensue, as there was a strong party hostile to England endeavouring to get the upper hand, which might then succeed in obtaining power. His Highness suggested that as the signature of the Sultan to the ratification of a Treaty was a formality only recently introduced, the addition of words reserving his sovereign rights might be accepted as a part of it, in accordance with Turkish usage.

I thought it, on the whole, better not to make any further difficulties, especially as the result might, and probably would, prove such as Safvet Pasha anticipated. It appeared to me of essential importance that the Convention should be ratified without further delay.

Safvet Pasha, being engaged to dine with me, brought the Sultan's ratification with him in the evening, and exchanged it for the Queen's. The Sultan, as your Lordship will perceive, has added some words to his signature at the head of the instrument, which, according to Mr. Saulsbon's translation, are:—

"I ratify the present Treaty on condition that my sovereign rights shall in no way be affected thereby.

(Signed) "Hamid."

After the exchange of ratifications had taken place I signed a short Declaration, which the Sultan himself had dictated, and a copy of which I inclose. It appeared to me so very vague that I did not think it worth while to run the risk of further delay and difficulties by refusing to do so.

His Majesty has since sent to express his gratitude to me for having yielded to his wishes, and for thus having saved him from the heavy responsibility which he would have incurred towards his family and his people had he not reserved his sovereign rights when ratifying a Convention that had been denounced by his enemies as giving up those rights. His Majesty's fears are almost ridiculously exaggerated; but he entertains a morbid suspicion that there is a design on the part of many influential persons, including some of his Ministers and men like Midhat and Sadyk Pashas, to deprive him of his rights and prerogatives, and of his legitimate authority. Our enemies have made use of the so-called Agreement between your Lordship and Count Schouvaloff, to make him believe that, notwithstanding our professions of friendship for Turkey, England is a party to a secret engagement for her partition, by which she is to obtain the greater part of his Asiatic territories. This impression will, I have no doubt, be removed in the course of time; but it unfortunately exists at the present moment, and is shared by a large number of influential persons, many of whom have access to His Majesty, and whose interest it is to lead him to distrust us.

In conclusion, I have only to express my hope that the course I have felt it my duty to take upon my own responsibility, under very difficult circumstances, will meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government. I may add that Safvet Pasha has acted most loyally, firmly, and independently throughout the negotiations I have described. I feel certain that, had not the ratifications been exchanged yesterday, he would have resigned. As it is, by the resolute attitude which he assumed, and his opposition to the Sultan's demand when the greater part, if not the whole, of the Council supported it, he may have

incurred His Majesty's displeasure. He has certainly shown a firmness of character for which I scarcely gave him credit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S. – I have the honour to inclose translation of the Sultan's ratification.

A. H. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 288.

Declaration signed by Sir A. H. Layard.

Therapia, le 15 Juillet, 1878.

L'AMBASSADEUR de Sa Majesté Britannique déclare qu'on ne cherchera nullement porter atteinte aux droits souverains du Sultan, comme Sa Majesté Impériale l'entend par sa ratification du Traité d'Alliance Défensive du 15 Juillet, 1878.

(Signé) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 288.

Turkish Ratification of the Convention of June 4, 1878.

(Traduction.)

NOUS, qui par la grâce de Dieu, sommes le Padishah du Turkistan et des contrées et villes y comprises, le Sultan, fils de Sultan, le Sultan Abdoul Hamid Han Gazi, fils du Sultan Abdoul Medjid Han Gazi, qui était fils de Sultan Mahmoud Han, nous proclamons ce qui suit par cet acte de notre sanction Impériale.

En vue de l'éventualité d'une tentative de la part de la Russie pour s'emparer d'une partie quelconque de notre Empire en dehors de ce qui serait stipulé dans le Traité définitif qui va être conclu en atténuation des Bases de Paix signées à San Stefano, le Gouvernement Anglais manifesta le désir de conclure une alliance avec la Sublime Porte, afin d'empêcher par les armes une telle éventualité si elle allait se présenter. A cet effet j'ai confié les pouvoirs nécessaires à mon Grand Vézir, Safvet Pacha, Grand Cordon de mes Ordres en brillants de Osmanlyé et du Medjidiyé, et qui est chargé aussi du Portefeuille des Affaires Etrangères.

De son côté le Gouvernement Anglais nomma au même effet son Excellence Sir A. H. Layard, Grand Cordon de l'Ordre du Bain, et son Ambassadeur et Plénipotentiaire auprès de ma Sublime Porte.

Les deux Délégués, ayant exhibé leurs pouvoirs, et les ayant trouvés en due forme, soumirent à ma sanction Impériale, ensemble avec une traduction, une Convention rédigée en deux Articles dûment signée par eux portant la date de l'Egire 3 Djemazil-ahir 1295, et la date Chrétienne de 4 Juin, 1878, et laquelle est rendue, mot par mot, tant en Français qu'en Anglais.

La fin.

La présente ratification contenant ma sanction Impériale par rapport à la Convention ci-dessus fut remise au susdit Gouvernement.

Le 6 Redjeb, 1295.

(Translation.)

Sultan's Autograph.

WITH the condition that no prejudice whatever occur to my sovereign rights, I ratify the Convention.

(Signed) 'ABDU-'L-HAMID.

Sultan's Cypher.

'Abdu-'l-Hamid, son of 'Abdu-'l-Mejid, the Khan, ever successful.

Preamble.

We, who by the grace of the Lord, are a Sultan, son of a Sultan, Emperor (Padishah) of Turkey (Turkistan), and of the regions and countries comprised therein, the Sultan, Champion of the Faith (Gazi), 'Abdu-'l-Hamid Khan, son of the Sultan, Champion of the Faith, 'Abdu-'l-Mejid Khan, son of the Sultan, Champion of the Faith, Mahmud Khan, do, by this our Imperial document of ratification, declare and announce that the exalted Government of England being desirous to conclude a Treaty of Alliance with my august Empire for the protection of our Imperial territories by the employment of armed force in case the Empire of Russia should at any time fall into the conceit of invading and seizing any other place from among our said territories which may be beyond (those specified in) the Definitive Treaty about to be concluded with a view to modify and amend the Preliminaries of Peace lately concluded and signed at San Stefano between our exalted Empire and the said Empire of Russia; therefore, on my most noble Imperial part, the distinguished Minister, Es-Seyyid Muhammed Es'ad Safvet Pasha, my actual Grand Vizier, of laudable qualities, and absolute Representative, potent of design, who also holds in addition the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs, and is decorated with and wears the illustrious insignia of the Osmanli Order in brilliants and of the Mejidi of the First Class, and also on the part of the exalted Government of England, its Ambassador residing at my Imperial Court, Sir Austen Henry Layard, decorated with and wearing the insignia of the Order of the "Bain," have been appointed Plenipotentiaries, have respectively exhibited and communicated to each other their full powers, which they found to be in due form and order, and have, consequently, under date of the third day of the month of Jamadi-'l-Akhir, A.H. 1295, being the fourth day (N.S.) of June, A.D. 1878, concluded, arranged, signed, and sealed, in two Articles, a Convention, which, together with its translation, having been submitted to my august consideration, the same is hereinunder recited and set forth, *ipsissimis verbis*, in English and French.

(Follow the two Articles and signatures.)

The present my august document of ratification has been delivered to the said Government, declaratory of the acceptance and ratification of the said Convention on my most noble sovereign part.

Done on the sixth day of the month of Rejeb the Solitary, in the year one thousand two hundred and ninety-five (6th July, 1878).

Written in the capital city of Constantinople.

No. 289.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 917.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 16, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch to Mr. Cross, No. 909 of 15th instant, I have the honour to state that the Grand Vizier, in consequence of my representations regarding the outrages alleged to have been committed by the Turkish regular troops upon Christians in Crete, has telegraphed very strong orders to the authorities of the island to punish with severity any soldiers who may be found guilty of them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 290.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 918.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 17, 1878.

WITH reference to Mr. Cross' despatch No. 784 of the 4th instant, transmitting to me copy of a communication from M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius as to the present

state of affairs in Thessaly, and directing me to call the attention of the Porte to the statements inclosed in a Memorandum inclosed in M. Delyanni's letter, I have the honour to observe that such statements, coming from this source, must be received with great caution, and are probably very much exaggerated or altogether unfounded. Your Lordship will have seen, by the despatches of Mr. Wyndham and of Mr. Blunt, that the Greek authorities on the frontier are doing their best to prevent the refugees from Turkish territory returning to their homes, and that Greek agents are endeavouring to incite the Christian population of the border provinces to insurrection against the Turkish Government. Mr. Blunt states that the Turkish authorities, both military and civil, are honestly carrying out the instructions which they have received from the Porte to conform strictly and loyally to the conditions which had been agreed to between it and the insurgents through English mediation. It is not the Turks, but the Greeks, who are throwing difficulties in the way, and who are responsible for the state of things which M. Delyanni describes. However, I have urged upon the Porte to give the strictest orders to its authorities in Thessaly and Albania to prevent any undue exercise of power by which disturbances may be caused. On the other hand, I would venture to suggest that the Greek Government should be called upon to prevent its own authorities from endeavouring to bring about the very state of things that furnishes to it a pretext for complaints against the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 291.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 920.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of an article from one of the principal Armenian newspapers published in Constantinople, the "Lirakir," respecting the position secured to Armenia and the Armenians by the Congress of Berlin, and the Convention of the 4th June between England and Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 291.

Extract from the Armenian "Lirakir" of July 15, 1878.

(Translation.)

UN nouvel avenir se présente aujourd'hui à la nation Arménienne, un avenir politique et un avenir moral.

L'Arménien après avoir gémi pendant plus de dix siècles sous un esclavage et des souffrances insupportables, vient d'être compté au nombre des nations vivantes d'Europe et d'être officiellement reconnu comme un peuple ou une nation civilisée.

Notre nation était jusqu'aujourd'hui privée d'une existence civilisée, car la vie n'est possible qu'avec la liberté; une nation qui n'est pas libre vit pour les autres; un peuple qui n'a pas de liberté politique n'a pas d'existence politique.

Le signe d'une vie politique est la civilisation et le progrès. Le monde ne peut vivre qu'avec progrès; le progrès ne peut s'obtenir que par la civilisation, et la civilisation ne peut s'acquérir que par une vie politique ou par la liberté politique.

L'état rétrograde et sauvage ayant été la part de l'Asie c'est l'Europe qui est aujourdhui le centre de la civilisation où le progrès fait des pas de géant et la nation qui, n'ayant aucune relation avec les peuples Européens, ne tâche pas de la suivre dans cette voie, se trouve écrasée par les flots du progrès qui finissent par l'engloutir. Malheur à la nation qui n'a pas la capacité et le désir d'avancer; son avenir est perdu.

L'Arménien qui, se trouvant depuis tant de siècles au milieu de tant de peuples sauvages de l'Asie, a pu autant que possible conserver sa nationalité, sa langue, et sa religion intactes, est aujourd'hui seulement reconnu par l'Europe. Aujourd'hui enfin on s'aperçoit qu'une nation de trois ou quatre milliers d'hommes portant le nom d'Arméniens se trouve dans les fourneaux incivilisés de l'Asie, séparée des sauvages par son histoire et par sa religion, et qui par sa simplicité, sa sincérité à toute épreuve,

sa nature tranquille, sa constitution virile, sa capacité pour les sciences et les arts, et par ses qualités civilisables pourrait être un moyen puissant pour venir en aide à l'humanité et pourrait former en Asie un foyer de progrès et de civilisation de même que l'Hellas a été jadis le foyer de civilisation en Europe.

C'est un grand bonheur pour l'Arménien que d'être ainsi reconnu aujourd'hui, et nous devons nous déclarer satisfaits et ne rien demander de plus.

L'Arménien et l'Arménie qui, jusqu'ici, étaient delaissés comme un embarras pour l'humanité, qui n'avaient pu être dignes d'attirer la sympathie ni l'attention des peuples Européens, l'Arménien, dis-je, est aujourd'hui reçu dans les réunions Européennes, et sa voix, sortant des profondeurs inconnues de l'Asie, trouve son écho dans les illustres villes occidentales de l'Europe; et depuis qu'il a perdu son existence politique, trouve la place qu'il mérite dans le Traité signé par un Congrès formé des Grandes Puissances qui disposent de la destiné des peuples.

Laissons de côté les améliorations qui ont été décidées, ou qui seront décidées pour être introduites en Arménie sous le contrôle des Puissances Européennes; supposons même que la nation n'ait rien gagné en vue de l'amélioration de son Etat intérieur et politique; mais le fait que les noms de sa nationalité et de sa patrie sont officiellement consignés dans un Traité que de grandes nations ont signé ou vont signer est un avantage incalculable, avantage qu'on aurait à peine pu obtenir par l'effusion du sang de milliers d'hommes. Tandis que la nation Arménienne obtient cet avantage par la promesse et l'attente qu'elle peut entrer dans la voie du progrès et de la civilisation dont elle possède la germe. C'est cette promesse qui constitue pour les Arméniens un engagement pour l'avenir, engagement de se civiliser, engagement de faire des progrès.

C'est l'exécution complète et consciencieuse de cette promesse qui fortifiera la sympathie dont l'Europe nous a donné une preuve et nous rendra digne de cette grande assistance morale. Car, si nous ne répondons pas aux espoirs que l'Europe fonde sur nous, nous aurons été ingrats de tant de bienfaits dont nous avons été comblés.

Qu'on réfléchisse bien que les plus illustres bouches d'Angleterre déclarent devant le monde entier en parlant de la nation Arménienne qu'on voulait jusqu'ici garder inconnue à l'Europe que . . . . . (ici quelques passages des discours prononcés dernièrement au meeting de Londres).

Après de telles déclarations, quand les Arméniens auront recouvré leur libre existence politique, qu'ils obtiendront sans doute, grâce aux soins et à la protection des Puissances Européennes, et particulièrement de la nation et du Gouvernement Anglais, qui, par un Traité Special a acquis le droit d'exiger que le Gouvernement du Sultan introduise dans la Turquie d'Asie les améliorations nécessaires en vue de satisfaire les classes Chrétiennes et, tout en les protégeant, de défendre même par les armes le territoire Asiatique contre des tentatives d'envahissement, et de conquêtes futures; les Arméniens, dis-je, vivant désormais sous une protection semblable seront indignes d'autant de sympathie et d'assistance, s'ils manquent d'accomplir la tâche qui leur est dévolue par rapport à la civilisation et au progrès.

Nous avons été considérés jusqu'ici comme une nation ignorante, rétrograde, et insignifiante; ces défauts, au lieu d'attirer sur nous le blâme de l'Europe, ont au contraire excité sa bienveillance; car l'Europe sait qu'une nation qui a pendant cinq ou six siècles vécu sous un régime d'oppression d'atrocités et d'attentats perpétuels à sa vie, à ses biens, et à son honneur, ne pouvait entrer dans une voie de progrès, et que c'est par miracle qu'elle ait pu parvenir à conserver sa propre existence.

Mais quand, grâce à la protection de cette grande nation Anglaise nous pourrons recouvrer notre existence civile, libre, et prospère; quand nous pourrons être les maîtres de nos biens, de notre vie, et de notre honneur (ce que nous n'étions pas jusqu'à présent) quand un champ de travail et de tranquillité sera ouvert devant nous pour pouvoir progresser à l'envi; alors si dans de telles conditions nous donnons une preuve de notre ingratitude aux secours et aux grâces dont nous sommes l'objet, nous serons immanquablement voués à la même destinée que la nation qui, ayant inutilement perdu son temps pendant vingt-cinq ans sous la garantie et la protection des Puissances, n'a voulu faire aucun pas dans la voie de progrès et de la civilisation et a cherché son avenir dans un retour au passé.

Beaucoup ont fait bien des promesses, beaucoup ont conçu bien des espoirs; le désir le plus modeste et le plus raisonnable a été le nôtre, qui est de ne rien gagner mais de passer au rang des pays politiques d'Europe. Nous sommes parvenus à

nos désirs—obtenir une plus grande faveur est une grâce dont nous devons savoir tirer profit.

L'Europe a compris que parmi ces pauvres Arméniens à elle inconnus, il y a des têtes pensantes, des corps nouveaux, de grands talents, et des hommes expérimentés, et un fond digne de la civilisation et du progrès.

Par le Traité de San Stéfano nous aurions, peut-être, pu avoir une liberté matérielle, mais notre liberté morale aurait été très-restreinte.

Par le Traité de Berlin nous obtenons avec notre liberté et bien-être matériel une garantie de notre liberté civile et de notre bien-être, grâce à la protection de l'Angleterre. Sachons le mériter de cette grande nation, car elle est une seconde providence pour la nation Arménienne que le ciel a envoyée en prêtant l'oreille à nos souffrances et à nos lamentations.

No. 292.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 921.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 17, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an article in translation from the Armenian newspaper, the "Massis," on the Armenian question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 292.

Extract from the "Massis" of July 16, 1878.

(Trad. off.)

QUESTION ARMÉNIENNE. Le Congrès de Berlin a terminé sa tâche. Parmi les questions qu'il a réglées la question Arménienne nous préoccupe naturellement le plus.

Jusqu'à ces derniers jours les Arméniens étaient pleins d'espoir; depuis quelques jours la tristesse et presque le désespoir ont remplacé cette joie.

Cette joie était bien naturelle même dans son excès; les Arméniens étaient oubliés et détournés de l'attention de l'Europe plus que les autres Chrétiens; à peine de temps à autre le nom d'Arménien était-il prononcé en Europe, et l'Europe ignorait que l'Arménien est un des éléments les plus nécessaires en Orient. Depuis bien des années on parlait des peuples Chrétiens d'Orient et de l'amélioration de leur état; cette idée est devenue enfin la cause de grands événements qui ont attiré l'attention de toute l'Europe, mais personne ne songeait que parmi ces peuples il y avait aussi une nation Arménienne.

Il y a un an et demi les membres de la Conférence de Constantinople disaient au Patriarche Arménien qu'il n'y a pas une question Arménienne. Il y a six mois seulement Lord Derby, alors Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, disait, du haut de la tribune Anglaise:—"Ne soulevez pas encore une question Arménienne." Mais la question Arménienne a surgi. Quand les Russes ont scellé les bases de la paix avec les Turcs, la question des Arméniens n'y était pas non plus comprise. Le Traité qui devait être signé plus tard ne pouvait être qu'un développement des bases déjà arrêtées. Et comme les Arméniens n'étaient pas dans les bases, ils ne pouvaient pas non plus être mentionnés dans le Traité. Mais ils y ont été mentionnés. L'Article XVI du Traité de San Stéfano a été stipulé; cet Article était un prélude qu'il aurait fallu développer autant que possible. Mais l'indifférence de l'Europe était désespérante pour nous. Avant qu'il ne se soit passé beaucoup de temps, cette indifférence s'est changée en une chaude sympathie.

Personne ne saurait nier que la cause des Arméniens a été dignement représentée devant l'Europe, et cela a beaucoup contribué à cette sympathie générale, et à cette estime dont les Délégués Arméniens ont été l'objet. Les journaux d'Europe ont plaidé la cause des Arméniens, ils l'ont défendue, et le cri des Arméniens a surtout trouvé un écho en Angleterre dans les journaux, dans les meetings, et dans la Chambre. De grands personnages, des hommes illustres en politique, le Gouvernement même, ont témoigné une grande sympathie, et promis leur protection.

De l'autre côté le Gouvernement Ottoman a vu les demandes de notre nation d'un

œil favorable, et n'a porté aucune entrave aux démarches de notre Patriarche. Tout cela était un présage de succès futurs, et il ne faut pas qu'on trouve étrange que les Arméniens aient espéré ce qui est leur droit, et ce que les Gouvernements avaient promis; car les Arméniens n'ont pas demandé à s'unir aux Gouvernements limitrophes, ni à former un Gouvernement à part, mais bien à être gouvernés sous l'autorité immédiate de notre auguste Souverain par des fonctionnaires Arméniens sur le sol Arménien. Enfin le moment est venu où le Congrès des Gouvernements s'est occupé de notre question, et alors s'est répandu avec la vitesse de l'éclair la nouvelle que le Congrès des Puissances n'a voulu rien faire pour nous. Au même instant a été divulgué la Convention Secrète qui, un mois avant, aurait été conclue entre la Turquie et l'Angleterre. Alors les cœurs les plus courageux ont donné cours à des réflexions tristes. Est-il vrai que l'Angleterre sacrifie et sacrifiera tout à ses intérêts? Est-il vrai qu'il n'y a pas une autre Puissance que la Russie qui protége les Chrétiens? Est-il vrai qu'en Orient, pour obtenir quelque chose, il faut être de la même race ou de la même religion qu'un Gouvernement voisin puissant? Quant à nous, sans nous laisser entraîner par ce courant de sentiments, nous avons voulu acquérir de véritables informations. Il nous a paru impossible que quand les Gouvernements Russe et Turc croient à propos de signer un Article pour l'amélioration du sort de la nation Arménienne, l'Europe vienne effacer cet Article, et cela sur la proposition de l'Angleterre. Mais d'après les informations que nous avons pu obtenir, non-seulement cet Article n'est pas éliminé, mais la garantie de l'Europe et la protection de l'Angleterre y sont ajoutées pour les Arméniens.

Quant à l'organisation qui sera faite pour les Arméniens, le Congrès des Puissances ne l'a pas déterminée, peut-être par cela même que par suite du nouveau Traité Anglo-Turc les deux Puissances Contractantes devront déterminer cette organisation. Mais l'Europe s'est réservé le droit de contrôle sur l'exécution des décisions qui seront prises. Cela veut dire que désormais la question Arménienne sera décidée par l'entente de la Turquie avec l'Angleterre. La question est remise, mais elle ne peut tarder à être réglée, car il y a l'engagement de l'Europe et la décision du Congrès des Gouvernements. Mais comment sera-t-elle réglée?

Il nous semble qu'avant que ce règlement ait lieu toute appréciation et toute exhortation au désespoir sont prématurées. Nous espérons que le Gouvernement Ottoman sera le plus porté à prendre la question Arménienne en sérieux considération, car il est à même plus que tout autre de connaître la fidélité séculaire des Arméniens, leur nature tranquille, et leur amour du progrès: et en reconnaissance de cette fidélité notre auguste Souverain a promis une récompense spéciale à notre Patriarche.

De l'autre côté, le Gouvernement Anglais, en satisfaisant la nation Arménienne, aura trouvé le seul moyen de servir d'abord l'opinion publique en Angleterre; en second lieu, de servir les intérêts Anglais en Asie; et, en troisième lieu, de préserver l'élément le plus nécessaire au Gouvernement Ottoman du danger de recourir à une nouvelle politique.

No. 293.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 923.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 18, 1878.

THE Representatives of the Great Powers met on Monday last and yesterday at Her Majesty's Embassy to consider the steps to be taken to carry out the instructions given to them by the Plenipotentiaries at the Congress to appoint a Commission to inquire into the condition of the Mussulmans in Mount Rhodope and the neighbouring districts.

At our first meeting Prince Lobanoff objected to the inquiries of the Commission being extended to territory occupied by the Russian troops, and proposed that, if they commenced in Mount Rhodope, they should end at the Russian li[illegible] Major-General Fawcett, Colonel Rüdt (the Austrian Military Attaché), and two other gentlemen who had been named as members of the Commission, pointed out that if the Russian Ambassador's proposal were accepted, the inquiry could lead to no practical results, as the greater number of the villages that have been destroyed, and whose inhabitants have been massacred or expelled, are within the Russian lines. This was stated yesterday to Prince Lobanoff; and as my Austrian and French colleagues joined with me in insisting that the Commission should have full powers to proceed

to any district they might think fit to visit, in order to carry out the object of their mission, it was finally agreed that, instead of starting from the coast of the Ægean Sea, as had been proposed, they should go first to Philippopolis and commence their inquiries from that town, passing afterwards through the country between it and Mount Rhodope, from whence the Mahommedan population had been driven, and where they appear to have suffered most. Prince Labanoff, at our request, promised to obtain from the Russian head-quarters at that place the necessary protection and escort for the Commission.

His Excellency, however, informed us that he had to state, on the authority of Prince Doudakoff Korsakoff, the Imperial Commissioner, that the Mussulman refugees could not be allowed to return in any numbers to the districts in the occupation of the Russians, who had no means of protecting them against the Bulgarians. I ventured to remark that, if such were the case, these unfortunate people, who ought to be protected by those who had taken possession of their country, would be left to starve, as, if they were not to be permitted to go back to their villages, I did not see how they were to live. One of the duties of the Commission, it appeared to me, was to find the means of restoring them to their homes. We ended by adopting a joint instruction to the Commissioners, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose, and they will leave on Saturday morning next, one or two of them being unable to make their preparations for an earlier day.

The selection of the Commissioners appears to me, on the whole, a good one, and I have every hope that they will execute with firmness and impartiality the mission confided to them.

Consul-General Fawcett was the only person here whom I could select as the British member of the Commission, the staff of the Embassy being too much reduced in numbers to enable me to send one of its members, and I trust that your Lordship will approve my selection. Mr. Fawcett is especially qualified for the task, having himself previously visited a part of the country to which the inquiries of the Commission will be directed, and having a personal knowledge of the condition and wants of the refugees. I beg to inclose copy of the special instructions that I have given to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 293.

Memorandum of Ambassadors for Appointment of Commission of Enquiry into the State of the Rhodope District.

POUR se conformer aux instructions qu'ils ont reçues de leurs Gouvernements à la suite d'une décision du Congrès de Berlin à la date du 11 Juillet courant, leurs Excellences les Ambassadeurs d'Autriche, d'Angleterre, de France, et de Russie, et MM. les Chargés d'Affaires d'Italie et d'Allemagne, ont désigné comme Commissaires Spéciaux à cet effet:—

M. le Colonel Rasb, Attaché Militaire de l'Ambassade Impériale Royale Apostolique d'Autriche-Hongrie;

Mr. Fawcett, Consul-Général d'Angleterre, et Juge de la Cour Consulaire de Sa Majesté Britannique;

M. Chalet, Consul de France;

M. Basily, Second Secrétaire de l'Ambassade de Russie;

M. Graziani, Second Dragoman de la Légation Royale d'Italie; et

M. Müller, Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale l'Empereur d'Allemagne.

Ces messieurs ont pour mission d'aller au Rhodope et dans les contrées voisines pour s'enquérir de l'état des populations émigrées dans ce pays et de leurs souffrances. Ils évalueront autant que possible le nombre des réfugiés; chercheront à savoir les endroits d'où ils viennent, à connaître leur race, leur religion, les motifs qui les ont obligés de quitter leur pays, et qui les empêchent encore d'y retourner.

Ils s'informeront des moyens immédiats de porter le remède à leurs misères et de le prolonger jusqu'à ce que ces réfugiés puissent être rapatriés et réintégrés dans leurs foyers avec toute sécurité pour leur existence.

Ils s'entendront avec les autorités Russes, si besoin est, afin de se concerter sur les

mesures à prendre pour arriver au rapatriement et pour se procurer des secours immédiats si cela est possible.

Au cas où les Commissaires jugeraient applicables immédiatement des mesures que leur suggéreraient leurs informations prises sur les lieux, ils en référeraient à leurs Ambassades respectives.

Les autorités militaires Russes et Turques devront faciliter à MM. les Commissaires l'accomplissement de la mission qui leur est confiée. MM. les Commissaires se rendront d'abord à Philippopoli, s'y mettront en rapport avec les autorités Russes, et de là règleront leur exploration selon leurs convenances.

Inclosure 2 in No. 293.

Sir A. H. Layard to Mr. Fawcett.

Sir, *Therapia, July 17, 1878.*

THE Congress of Berlin recently resolved that the Ambassadors of the Great Powers at Constantinople should arrange with the Porte for the immediate dispatch of a European Commission to Mount Rhodope and the neighbouring districts, charged to verify on the spot the gravity of the facts alleged with regard to the sufferings of the Mussulman population, and to endeavour to remedy them as far as possible.

I have been in communication with my colleagues on this subject, and we have decided to appoint a Commission at once for the purpose of carrying out the resolution of the Congress. The knowledge and experience you have acquired of the condition of the population of the districts to the south of the Balkans, from personally visiting them, render you especially fit to take part in it. I therefore trust that it will be convenient to you, and consistent with your official duties, to represent Her Majesty's Embassy upon it.

I inclose a joint instruction, which was drawn up at a meeting of the Representatives of the Great Powers for the guidance of the Commission. You will learn from it the principal objects of your mission, and the names of the gentlemen who will accompany you as your colleagues. I have only to add that I shall be glad to receive from you, for communication to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, any special report that you may be able to address to me upon the condition of the country that you may visit, and upon the events which have led to the sufferings of the Mussulman population, and to the rising in Mount Rhodope.

A Representative of the Porte will accompany the Commission, which will proceed in the first place to Philippopolis, and it is hoped that your colleagues and yourself will be able to leave together on Saturday morning.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 294.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 924.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a petition from the Sandjak of Varna against annexation to Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 294.

Petition from Sandjak of Varna against Annexation to Bulgaria.

(Translation.)
A son Excellence le Marquis de Salisbury, Représentant de l'Angleterre au Congrès.

LES habitants du Sandjac de Varna et des districts d'Aïdos et de Messemouria, après avoir fait mention des cruautés et violences exercées par les Russes sur la

population Musulmane, ajoutent que selon les informations reçues le Congrès aurait decidé que les pays dont les habitants sont en grande partie Bulgares constituassent la nouvelle Bulgarie; or, leur pays, à eux, étant au contraire habité, en grande partie, par des Musulmans, il serait injuste de l'incorporer à la Bulgarie en question. Ils prient, par conséquent, d'être sauvés de ce danger, et ils concluent en disant que si leur vœu n'est pas exaucée, ils préféreront mourir plutôt que de voir leurs femmes déshonorées et leurs enfants massacrés par les Russes et les Bulgares.

Le [illegible], 1878.

(Suivent les signatures.)

No. 295.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 35. Consular.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose Dr. Dickson's weekly report upon the public health of Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 295.

Dr. Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Constantinople, July 17, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the public health continues to improve. No fresh cases of typhus have shown themselves amongst the refugees, but diarrhœa and malaria fevers have become more prevalent of late, especially in Stamboul. Want of means is still the crying evil. The International Committee, however, continues to assist the sick refugees, and the Pera Municipality hospital is maintained almost entirely at its own expense. The mortality amongst the refugees has diminished very considerably.

The Board of Health, having taken into consideration this improved state of the public health, has suppressed the phrase lately inserted into the bills of health, mentioning the existence of petechial typhus ("typhus exanthématique"). It has also dispensed with the services of one of the Sanitary Inspectors (Dr. Galuzzi). Dr. Stokoulis will continue his inspections along the Asiatic shore, and Dr. Mordtmann will be charged with that of Stamboul and the European shore.

I herewith inclose the letter addressed to your Excellency by the above-mentioned three Inspectors, announced in my report of the 7th instant. The Board has begged me, at the same time, to thank your Excellency for the satisfactory reply received from the Governor of Malta on the rumoured existence of cholera in that island.

Dr. Gargiulo, the Sanitary Medical Officer at Mersina (a port in Karamania), telegraphed on the 12th instant to the Board that an epidemic had broken out at Tchenguel-Kioz, four hours distant from Alexandretta, and that he was about to proceed to the spot, in order to ascertain the nature of the outbreak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. D. DICKSON.

No. 296.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 925.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Barker, reporting the arrival of a new Vali at Salonica, and giving an account of the raids by Greek brigands in the neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 296.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Salonica, July 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Rifaat Pasha, the newly-appointed Vali, arrived here on the 10th instant, and his Firman was read, and he received the Consular Corps on the 11th instant. His Excellency has been brought up in the offices of the Porte, and seems to have an experienced knowledge of public affairs.

Some energetic measures on his part will have to be taken to repress, and if possible extirpate, the bands of brigands of whom we hear from all quarters.

A band came to a village near Kanaferne and boldly carried off from a house, where they were lodging, three Jews, who had come to buy sheep, and wrote a letter to the Jewish community here for a large ransom. Mr. Suter informs me that a Jew has also been carried off in his district, for whom the sum of 1,500 Turkish lires, a gold watch and chain, and a field-glass are demanded from the Rabbins; and he sends me a copy of the letter, signed "Kanaisco," informing them that if the ransom be not paid he will be cut into four pieces. Such letters are common now.

In the past week a report was spread here of disturbances at or near Volo, and an Austrian and Italian man-of-war were sent immediately there, but this report has not been confirmed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. B. BARKER.

No. 297.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 926. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 19, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 670 of the 18th instant, referring to reports that the Russians had been landing arms in the Island of Marmora, I have the honour to inclose copy of a report from a special Agent sent by the Turkish Government a few days ago to inquire into the proceedings of the Russians in that island.

This report has been given to me confidentially.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 297.

Report addressed to Safvet Pasha.

Monseigneur,

Constantinople, le 8 Juillet, 1878.

POUR m'acquitter de la mission que votre Altesse m'a fait l'honneur de me confier, je me suis rendu le Jeudi [illegible] à Panderma, et de là, à l'Ile de Marmora, en passant par Erdék.

J'ai également visité Pacha-Liman et Contalis, ou Ekinlik, afin de donner le plus de certitude possible aux renseignements que j'ai recueillis.

Il résulte de mes investigations qu'à deux reprises différentes les Russes se sont montrés dans ces iles pour en étudier les avantages.

La première fois, le 20 Février (v. s.) dix militaires, dont trois officiers, ont paru dans l'Ile de Contalis où ils ont séjourné trois jours; la seconde fois le 20 Mars (v. s.) un seul officier Russe a paru à Asanali et y a séjourné deux jours.

Pour justifier de ces deux excursions les Russes ont prétendu un vent contraire qui les aurait jetés dans ces parages, ce qui ne saurait être admis pour la descente d'Ekinlik, parce que dix-sept heures à l'avance leur débarquement avait été annoncé au préposé de la Douane, Moustafa Effendi, par un batelier Grec nommé Istianos.

Cette version serait également inadmissible pour la descente d'Osmadi, car ce village se trouve à l'autre extrémité de l'Ile de Marmora, juste au point le plus

éloigné de Khora, la position Russe la plus rapprochée; il a fallu donc faire le tour de l'île pour y débarquer.

En outre, il est de notoriété publique dans ces parages que les Russes demandent à tous les bateliers allant à Rodósto des renseignements sur la population Chrétienne, sur ses dispositions vis-à-vis du Gouvernement Impérial, sur les approvisionnements que peuvent fournir ces îles, sur le nombre de logements qu'on y pourrait trouver, sur la possibilité d'élever des batteries sur les hauteurs pour donner la mer et empêcher la circulation des navires.

Les bateliers de Marmora, dont les noms suivent, m'ont déclaré avoir été interrogés sur tous ces points par les autorités Russes de Rodosto et de Charkeui. Ces bateliers sont:—

1. Mastoriani et son fils. 2. Anglak. 3. Yovan Christoforus. 4. Simidji Oglou Antonaki. 5. Vidloghi Kiriáco.

Mais malgré toutes leurs investigations les Russes semblent avoir renoncé à l'envahissement de l'Archipel de Marmora—

(1.) A cause de la distance qui sépare Marmora de Khora, distance de 28 kilom.

(2.) Aucune échelle pour le débarquement de la grosse artillerie n'existe dans l'Isle de Marmora. Les Russes ne disposant d'aucun navire pouvant suppléer à ce manque, une entreprise pareille serait hasardée.

(3.) Le littoral est sablonneux: il faudrait donc élever les batteries sur les hauteurs. Or, dans toute l'île, pour arriver à ces hauteurs, il n'y a que des sentiers qu'un cavalier seul a de la peine à suivre.

(4.) En supposant même que cette opération difficile à plusieurs points de vue ait lieu, les Russes ne sauraient empêcher le passage d'aucun navire, puisque les feux croisés de Marmora et de Khora ne donneraient au maximum qu'une moyenne de 14 kilom. sur 28 kilom.

(5.) En admettant même l'impossible que le passage entre Marmora et Khora soit impraticable, il reste celui de Roda, que l'on ne saurait jamais nous fermer.

Cependant, permettez moi, Monseigneur, d'ajouter que, malgré toute la sécurité que votre Altesse peut avoir sur ces points, il serait très-heureux pour l'influence du Gouvernement qu'un navire de guerre parût de temps en temps dans ces parages, pour imposer à la population, qui est complétement hostile à l'Empire, surtout depuis l'arrivée des Russes en Roumélie.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) SÉLIM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 297.

Sketch.

No. 298.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July 27.*)

(No. 920. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, on the subject of the state of Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 298.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private and Confidential.)
Sir,

Prevesa, July 13, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the news respecting the annexation of part of Epirus to the Kingdom of Greece has made a very bad impression

on the Turkish inhabitants of Epirus, and should this transfer of authority be left to be settled by the Governments of Turkey and Greece alone, and without the interference of Europe, it is much to be dreaded that this will not be carried out without the shedding of blood; for the Albanians seem disposed to resist, by force of arms, if necessary, any such measure.

Turkish emissaries are now sent in all directions for the purpose, no doubt, of inciting their co-religionists to set a bold face against their country being given over to Greece, and Vassó Bey, a native of Prevesa who, I am assured, has been chosen by the Turks to act as their leader, left for Janina on Wednesday last on a mission of the same nature. Sayé-bubib, a member of the Temiz Hookook, likewise left for Margaretti. Whether this state of things is countenanced by the authorities I cannot say; one thing seems pretty clear, however, and that is that they are well informed of what is going on. I am also told by a trustworthy person that Ahmed Rassim Pasha, the new Vali of Janina, who called here on his way to his post a few days ago, invited all the influential Turks of Prevesa and advised them to draw up a petition against the above-alluded annexation, and forward it by telegraph to the Congress at Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

No. 299.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 27.)

(No. 930.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of two despatches which I have received from Mr. Consul Blunt at Larissa, one reporting upon the disturbed state of Thessaly, the other relative to the proposed extension of the Greek frontiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 299.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Larissa, July 10, 1878.

ON the 8th instant, I telegraphed to your Excellency as follows:—

"Local authorities inform me that within last five days Greek brigands have murdered twenty-three Mahommedans in Thessaly in three bodies, the first composed of three farm stewards, the second of eleven deserters, and the third of nine labourers; that brigands declare they will kill every Mahommedan they meet; and that latter are alarmed and uneasy.

"The new Governor-General of Epirus has requested the Commander-in-chief in Thessaly to send him eight battalions of infantry in view of Greek military preparations, which the latter has refused, his own forces being insufficient to meet the emergency."

I beg leave to enter into the following particulars regarding the present disturbed state of this province, as summarized in the above telegram. On the 25th June last Manolaki Bikella and Nicola Bhgdines, two Christians, were murdered on the Carditza-Larissa road at a spot called Djambazlur, about three hours from the latter town. An Albanian and a Christian peasant are suspected of having committed this crime.

On the 3rd July a large band of robbers, said to consist of 100 men, Hellenes, native Greeks, Sarikatchans, and Arvanito Vlachs, seized and murdered two Mahommedan Albanian "Sousbashies" (farm stewards) of the estate of Courshova, in district of Tricalla. The same band immediately after murdered three other Mahommedan Albanian "Sousbashies" of the village of Vardan, in that district. The chiefs of this band have sent messages to the villages that they will shoot every Mahommedan they come across.

On the 4th July a band of robbers, newly formed and composed of ten deserters from the local police force, two native Greek peasants, and five Mahommedan

Albanians, made a descent upon the Christian village of Megáraki, in the district of Tricalla, and attempted to carry off some hostages. The villagers resisted and fired on the marauders. Fortunately a military outpost in the vicinity, attracted by the firing, hastened to the spot, surrounded the village, and, with the assistance of the villagers, succeeded in capturing the whole band after wounding its chief, a corporal of police.

The Commander-in-chief has telegraphed orders to Tricalla to send these robbers to Larissa to be tried and disposed of by court-martial, and has also promoted the officer in charge of the outpost; while the Civil Governor has desired the Kaimakam (Sub-Governor) of Tricalla to proceed to the village of Megaraki and express to the inhabitants his thanks and high appreciation of the assistance they rendered to the military on this occasion.

Again, on the 4th of July the robber chief Stoffo, with his band of thirteen native Greek peasants, made a raid in the village of Gorgovitos, in district of Carlitza, and carried off a Christian, Stamo by name, as hostage.

The Turkish Bektchi ("garde champêtre") of the village was killed by the robbers for attempting to rescue Stamo.

On the 5th July eleven military deserters fell unarmed into the hands of a band of brigands and were ruthlessly murdered in the vicinity of Dishkatta, between Tricalla and Allassona. It is supposed that the authors of this butchery belong to the same band who murdered the five farm stewards of Courshova and Varvain.

On the 7th July a convoy of more than 100 Christian and Mahommedan labourers was attacked while going through the pass of Kirk Gotchid, three hours from Allassona, by a large band of Sarikatchans and Arvanito-Vlach brigands, who, after making the Christians separate themselves from the Mahommedans, fired on the latter, killing, it is feared by the Governor of Allassona, nine of them, for only twenty of the twenty-nine Mahommedan [illegible]

On the 6th July several shopkeepers and others, coming from Volo to Larissa, were stopped on the road, in the vicinity of Pilaff-Tepé, and robbed of their money and effects. It is rumoured that this robbery was perpetrated by some of the police at that station.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 299.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, July 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Longworth, dated the 7th instant, transmitting a copy of a letter in Greek, of which I also inclose a translation, from the Agent of the National Defence Committee at Athens, at the Greek border village of Surbi, acquainting the principal Mahommedan and Christian inhabitants of Armyro that the Greek frontier is to be extended to the Rivers "Salambria" (Peneus), in Thessaly, and to the Gulf of Kalamas, in Epirus.

The Ottoman authorities in Larissa have received no notice from the Porte relative to this asserted extension; but M. Palamidès, the Greek Consul here, told me this morning that he had received yesterday evening a telegram, dated the 8th instant, from the Greek Ministry for Foreign Affairs, informing him that it is probable there will be some rectification of the Greek frontier, and enjoining him to watch and endeavour to obviate any unpleasantness occurring in consequence of this news.

This instruction has come in time to enable the Greek Consul to impress upon the Greek subjects here to forbear from any demonstrations calculated to irritate Mahommedan sensitiveness; and as some dispositions in that direction had already been manifested, the Commander-in-chief has called my attention to the desirability of recommending the Greek Consul's earnest consideration of this point.

I have not failed to urge M. Palamidès' notice to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 299.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Armyro, July 7, 1878.*

I CONSIDER it my duty to transmit to you the inclosed copy of a Greek circular letter received last night by the principal Mussulman and Christian inhabitants at Armyro. It is addressed to them from the Greek border village of Surbi, by Dimitri Economides, the Agent of the "National Defence Committee" of Athens, and contains a declaration that the districts lying south of the Rivers Salambria and Kalamas in Thessaly and Epirus are to be annexed to Greece. This news, generally accepted here as a fact, has caused a great deal of excitement among the people. The leading members of the Greek community called upon me to-day to express their feelings of gratitude. During the visit, I strongly recommended them, without confirming the news or questioning its truth, to be particularly cautious in their behaviour towards the Turks, and not to give way to any premature demonstrations of joy, for fear it might be the means of inciting them to acts of violence. The Turks, however, seem quite resigned to their fate, and ascribe to fatality the expected change with all the composure of true Orientals.

I hear that at Surbi great rejoicing is going on at the satisfactory results of the Congress; and that the company of Greek troops there is now reinforced by no less than 2,500 men.

The town and vicinity of Armyro are at present perfectly quiet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 299.

(Translation from the Greek.)

Surbi, le [illegible], 1878.

Mes chers Patriotes Naïm Effendi, Raïf Effendi, Issuf Aghá Mulazim, Saïd Agha, Ahmed Agha, et autres Musulmans; et vous mes chers frères Chrétiens Aristidi D. Arghiropolo, Anagnosti Iconomides, Matzika Dimitriadi; Dimitrion Dimoula, Dimitri Bakamidi, et autres habitants d'Armyro:

LES frontières de la Grèce sont étendues en Thessalie jusqu'à la Rivière "Pineus," et en Épire la Rivière "Kalama," c'est-à-dire jusqu'à Parga.

Vous devez louer le bon Dieu pour cela, car nous vivrons sous une loi Constitutionnelle, administrant nous-mêmes notre pays, sans être dépouillés par le [illegible] of les étrangers.

Que personne, soit Turc, soit Chrétien, ne se laisse pas affliger par ce résultat; ce is que tous soient contents; et que personne ne laisse [illegible] pour [illegible] ses nouveaux amis rejouissent.

Nous, les Chrétiens de la Thessalie, ne sommes pas des Bulgares; mais nous sommes des hommes nobles et nous traiterons les Musulmans en égaux et frères.

Le dessus ayant été communiqué officiellement, je vous le transmets comme votre bon et fidèle Patriote.

[illegible]
(Signed) D. ICONOMIDES.

No. 300.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 931.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul R. Reade, relative to the appointment of a Turco-Russian Commission for the purpose of making arrangements for the evacuation of Varna and Shumla, and to the return to their homes of the Mussulman refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 300.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Varna, July 17, 1878.

IN my despatch of the 13th instant I had the honour to report to your Excellency the arrival here in the Russian war-steamer "Grand Duke Constantine" of a Turco-Russian Commission for the evacuation of Shumla and Varna.

The Commissioners are—on the part of Turkey, Sirri Pasha, ex-Governor of Widdin, and General Rechid Pasha, Military Commandant of Varna; and on the part of Russia, General Stobleben and Colonel Gubensky.

The Commissioners remained here till Monday, when they left for Shumla.

From good information I have received, it appears that during a discussion here by the Commission as to the execution of the duties assigned thereto, a difference arose between the respective Commissioners.

Their orders are to proceed at once to Shumla, where one or two of the outer forts are to be occupied by Russian troops.

Then the whole of the refugees are to be sent back safely to their homes and with their arms; and when this is accomplished, the evacuation of Shumla is to commence; all the troops and civil authorities to be brought to Varna; and then the same process is to be carried out here.

The Russian Commissioners requested the Turks to name a period for these operations. The latter replied that as there are nearly 200,000 refugees in the whole Caza of Shumla; as the carts that have recently been hired to go within the Russian line of demarcation have not been allowed to return; and as many of the refugees require assistance from the authorities, whose resources, from the Russians having obliged them to remain here, are nearly exhausted; it was clearly impossible to name any definite period.

The Russians then stated that they could not remain more than ten days at the utmost, when they would leave. The Turks replied that in that case the work of the Commission would be arrested, as their orders were to act only with or in the presence of the Russian Commissioners.

The Russian General then threatened to leave the same evening for Constantinople; but, although the Turks remained firm, he changed his mind, and they all left for Shumla yesterday by a special train.

The Turks consider, and no doubt very justly and naturally, that after the treatment the unfortunate refugees have received from the Bulgars and the Russians, their repatriation cannot be intrusted to any one beyond the Commission, and which is according to their orders, and that it must be carried out under the surveillance of the whole Commission. Indeed, from what I hear from Shumla, and in consequence of the state of terror into which they have been thrown by the recent events, which I telegraphed to Lord Salisbury and reported to your Excellency in my despatch of the 8th instant, I doubt if they could be persuaded to move by any but the Commissioners, and I rather think that they will not find theirs an easy task.

Most of the refugees, I repeat, will have to be supplied with some means for their journey, and the carts that have been forcibly detained by the Russians have to be brought back to Shumla, and they (the refugees) being, moreover, scattered all over the Caza of Shumla and natives of so many and so distant points, that it is simply idle to expect that their repatriation can be effected in anything like the time named by the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 301.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 49. Political.)
My Lord,

Bosna-Seraï, July 16, 1878.

AT the request of the Commander of the troops, Hafiz Pasha, I have to-day telegraphed to your Lordship as follows:—

"Hafiz Pasha urgently demands ten battalions of Turkish troops to ensure the maintenance of order during the entry of Austrian troops into Bosnia, but can get no

reply from Constantinople. There are twenty-three battalions now in Bosnia, but of these nineteen are Bosniac, and cannot be relied on."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 302.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 50. Political.)
My Lord,

Bosna-Seraï, July 18, 1878.

I HAVE just telegraphed to your Lordship that I much fear that the Turkish Government is playing a double part, and stirring up the population of Bosnia to resist the Austrian occupation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 303.

Acting Consul Barker to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 31. Political.)
My Lord,

Salonica, July 17, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 15th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the arrival of a new Governor-General, and the necessity of measures for the repression of the bands of brigands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure in No. 303.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard, July 15, 1878.

[See Inclosure in No. 291.]

No. 304.

Mr. Vivian to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 250. Political.)
My Lord,

Alexandria, July 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that in consequence of the conclusion of peace the Egyptian Government have decided to withdraw the military force they had stationed during the war as a guard along the banks of the Suez Canal.

This service entailed a heavy expenditure, which Egypt could ill afford at the present moment, and, as all reason for its continuance would appear to have passed away, I see no grounds for objecting to the decision at which the Egyptian Government have arrived.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN

No. 305.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 39. Political.)
My Lord,

Corfu, July 22, 1878.

THE last despatch which I had the honour to address to your Lordship is dated the 15th instant. At 7 o'clock P.M. of that day I received a visit from the Nomarch,

who appeared to be in a state of great excitement, which he explained by stating that a small fishing-boat, with three women and seven children, had arrived from the opposite coast, who reported that the Turks of the populous village of Conispoli had risen and were massacring the Christians, that they had fled for their lives, and that they had left 200 women and children on the beach below their village exposed to the most fearful outrages, and without any means of escape.

This was a thrilling story, and it was so much the more surprising because the Turks of Conispoli have the reputation of being a very quiet set, who had taken no part in the late disturbances, and their village is, moreover, the head-quarters of a detachment of regular troops. I requested the Nomarch to inform me as to the hour when the refugees had arrived, and my astonishment was not diminished on learning that the boat had arrived at 4 o'clock, three hours previous to his visit to the Consulate, and now he was most anxious to have my opinion respecting the expediency of sending across the Greek gun-boat stationed here under his orders to bring off the reputed victims of Turkish barbarity. I told him at once that any experiment of the kind appeared to me extremely hazardous, as the vessel could not reach the Albanian coast before nightfall, and boats attempting to land at such an hour would, to a certainty, be fired into by patrols along the shore. But I offered to take him on board the "Rapid," that we might consult with Commander Fitzgerald as to what could be done under the circumstances.

On hailing the "Rapid" we found that the Commander had gone on shore with a party of his officers early in the afternoon, and they only returned to the ship towards 8 o'clock, just before dark, when I had an opportunity of conferring with Commander Fitzgerald respecting the matter in hand. He, very naturally, objected to risk the ship on a dangerous coast at such an hour under any circumstances; considering, besides, that had there been any intention of massacring the women and children, it must have been all over with them by that time. But he agreed to stand across in his steam launch at dawn on the morrow in order to find out the state of matters, and, in case of need, to render all the assistance in his power.

He accordingly started from the ship at half-past 3 o'clock A.M., returning at 7 o'clock, and early in the forenoon reported to me that he had visited all the creeks for miles above and below Conispoli without seeing a living creature on the beach.

This seemed very strange after the alarming reports of the preceding day, and in order to get at the bottom of the affair, he agreed to send the launch down to the port of Sajades, about three miles below Conispoli, where there is a Custom-house, and where there is also a Greek Vice-Consul stationed, a respectable young man, a native of Corfu, from whom we were sure of receiving a true account of what had taken place, or what had not, and so it was. The Vice-Consul, who speaks English very well, informed the officer in command of the launch that the day before the farmer of the Government tithes had visited the Tchiflic, a small village, or rather hamlet, situated between Conispoli and the shore, to collect his dues, that differences had arisen between the inhabitants and the collector, in the course of which a shot was fired by one of the villagers, which laid a young lad, the son of the collector, dead at his feet; that this brought on a general fight in which several of the combatants were killed, and ended in setting fire to some of the houses of the village, but how many of the villagers were killed, or how many houses were burnt down, deponent could not say; but no report had reached Sajades that any women or children had been sacrificed during or after the fray, and it is to be supposed that, from the vicinity of the two localities, had such been the case the Vice-Consul must have heard of it. He, moreover, stated that the Pasha of Filiates had passed up in the course of the day to hold an investigation at the Tchiflic, and as this Pasha is a man of talent, and bears a high character for humanity, and the ability with which he administers his district, it is to be expected that the investigation will have been conducted with impartiality and a proper regard to the requirements of justice, but we have not as yet been able to learn the results of the inquiry, further than that tranquillity has been restored.

2. A day later, i.e. on the 17th instant, I had an opportunity of talking over what had occurred with my Turkish and French colleagues. The former told me that the Nomarch had called on him between 5 and 6 o'clock of the 15th, the day on which the refugees arrived, and proposed to send across the Greek gun-boat to the rescue of the 200 women and children aforesaid. On the danger of such a step being pointed out to him by Comnenos Bey, he next went to the French Consulate, when M. Wiet called his attention to the inexpediency of showing the Greek flag in Turkish waters, or sending boats carrying the flag on the proposed errand at this present con-

juncture; but he recommended to him to go to the English Consulate, and talk over the subject with me. And this he did, as has been stated above; but he took good care not to give me the slightest hint respecting his previous visit to my Ottoman and French colleagues.

3. The above is what I have to offer in explanation of the sensational telegram which appears in the "Times" of the 16th instant, transmitted to that paper by way of Athens, and which, under present circumstances, must have been hailed as a Godsend by the Hellenic Ministry and the Revolutionary Committees. "Calomniez toujours, quelque chose y restera."

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 307.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 594.)

My Lord, *Paris, July 26, 1878.*

M. CALLIMAKI CATARGI, the Roumanian Agent, came to me this afternoon and asked me to convey to Her Majesty's Government the following requests from the Government of Roumania:—

1. That a regular Diplomatic Legation should, as soon as possible, be established by Great Britain at Bucharest.

2. That the chief of this Legation should not be merely a Chargé d'Affaires or Minister Resident, but, on the contrary, should have the rank and title of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

3. That, as a natural consequence, an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Roumania should be received at Her Majesty's Court.

4. That Her Majesty's Government should recognize Prince Charles as "Grand Prince" of Roumania.

5. That Her Majesty's Government should address the Grand Prince as "Royal Highness."

M. Callimaki Catargi observed that "Grand Prince" was a literal translation of a title anciently borne by the Sovereigns of the country, and that it might be considered as equivalent to "Grand Duke."

As to the rank of the Diplomatic Representatives of foreign Powers, M. Callimaki Catargi said that his Government conceived that the extent, the population, and the civilization of Roumania entitled it to be placed on an equal footing in this respect with the smaller monarchies of Europe, such as Belgium, Denmark, Greece, and Holland.

M. Callimaki Catargi proceeded to tell me that a mark of sympathy and good will on the part of the Western Powers would be particularly acceptable to the Roumanians at the present moment. The result of the Congress of Berlin had, he said, been that three spheres of influence had been established in Turkey. England had reserved to herself Turkey in Asia; Austria had provided for her own predominance in the west of Turkey in Europe; while in the eastern part of European Turkey Russian influence was to be supreme. Roumania was placed topographically within the Russian sphere, and it was therefore peculiarly necessary to the maintenance of her independence that distinct proofs should be given that she was neither forgotten nor abandoned by the Western Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 308.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July 26, 1878.*

THE Cretan Committee at Athens begs me to inform your Lordship that they approve request lately addressed to Mr. Sandwith by the National Assembly of Crete, and that they hope that Her Majesty's Government will accept mediation asked for, and that they will be able to obtain an autonomous form of Government in accordance with the wishes of the Cretans.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 309.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 695.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 26, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Consul Sandwith, dated to-day:—

"Orders were received last night for the punishment of troops guilty of outrages, and for the punishment of those who plundered 250 Christian families."

No. 310.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 137.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 27, 1878.*

THE Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me yesterday, on my mentioning that General Todtleben had been reported to have said that the Russian forces would not withdraw from San Stefano till Batoum was evacuated, that he had sent a despatch to General Todtleben instructing him not to mix up the question of Asia with that of Europe.

No. 311.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 27, 1878, 6 P.M.*

DECISIONS of Congress were read to the Skuptchina by M. Ristic just before its close and agreed to.

It was resolved to enter at once into communication with the Powers for the abolition of the Capitulations and to make a Commercial Treaty with Austria.

No. 312.

Sir G. Wolseley to Colonel Stanley.

(Telegraphic.) *Cyprus, July 27, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, I strongly recommend retention of native sappers here for some months, as there are some roads to be made and huts to be erected when they arrive, which I hope may be very soon.

No. 313.

Sir G. Wolseley to Colonel Stanley.

(Telegraphic.) *Larnaka, July 27, 1878.*

TELEGRAM in Colonial Office cypher, unsigned, just received. I know nothing of any positive ( ) but, as far as this island is concerned, I will answer for law and order here if native forces are at once removed. I shall stop ( ).

Almost all now on shore. All I see, no sanitary reasons for removal of Indian forces which I had commenced distributing in the several districts. All here very healthy. I think that one battery of field artillery should be retained here.

No. 314.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir G. Wolseley.

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 27, 1878, 5·45 P.M.*

DO not, without first referring home, make arrangements as to ultimate destination of arrears of taxes accrued before occupation.

Your telegrams to me should be numbered.

No. 315.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 27, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 685 of the 23rd instant, you should inform Consul Blunt that it is wished that he should remain in Thessaly until the Greek question is settled. Her Majesty's Government are fully sensible of the value of his services.

No. 316.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 378.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, July* 27, 1878.

COUNT MÜNSTER informed me to-day that it is proposed to give to Prince Charles of Roumania the titles of Grand Duke and Royal Highness; he said he should be glad to have the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon the proposal, and to ascertain whether they approved it. I stated that no communications on the matter had been received by Her Majesty's Government; but I assured him that it was a point upon which they would gladly acquiesce in any decision to which the German and Austrian Governments might come.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 317.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 870.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 27, 1878.

IN reply to your telegram No. 685 of the 23rd instant, which has reference to Consul Blunt's movements, I have to request that your Excellency will inform him that it is my wish that he should remain in Thessaly until the Greek question is settled.

I have to add that Her Majesty's Government are fully sensible of the value of Mr. Blunt's services.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 318.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July* 28, 1878.

RUSSIAN ratification of Treaty of Berlin has been signed by the Emperor, and will be sent to Berlin to-morrow.

No. 319.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 697.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 28, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Consul-General Fawcett and Austrian and French Commissioners, dated yesterday:—

Evidence of most of the refugees concerning atrocities committed by Russian soldiers is unanswerable. Basily wishes to stop these accusations, many of which German acknowledges true. Basily attempts to intimidate us, saying he will retire and second Commission. You must support us. Please show Austrian and French Ambassadors."

No. 320.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 698.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 28, 1878.

NOTHING has yet been decided about Bosnia. The Porte has requested Austrian Government to delay entry of troops for a few days longer, and Grand Vizier hopes that an arrangement will be come to, especially if Count Andrassy will accept the last proposals of the Porte respecting the Convention, which he has shown some disposition to do. Grand Vizier thinks, however, that he has been somewhat inconsistent in the matter.

Turkish military commandant on northern frontier of Bosnia has protested against the entry of Austrian troops, but will, I think, receive instructions to withdraw his protest in order to avoid difficulties and to satisfy Austria.

No. 321.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 699.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 28, 1878.

FOLLOWING sent to Consul Sandwith to-day:—

"(Very Confidential.)

"The conditions which were agreed to with the Provisional Government before the Congress were of a temporary character, and applicable (?) to the then state of things. Can you ascertain and inform me without in any way committing the Porte what are the views of the Christian Cretans as to the future Government of the island, and what modifications or changes, if any, they require in the organic law. When I have this information I may be able to communicate with you further. Your principal object at present should be to endeavour to put a stop to the effusion of blood."

Vali has telegraphed to the Grand Vizier that the women and old men who are alleged to have been wantonly killed, fell during engagements between insurgents and regulars troops. Grand Vizier has promised to order the appointment of a Military Commission with a view to the trial and punishment of soldiers if found guilty.

No. 322.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 501.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July* 21, 1878.

MEHEMET ALI PASHA spoke to me last night, with some anxiety, about the effect that might be produced at Constantinople by some expressions in the speech of the Earl of Beaconsfield in the House of Lords on the 18th instant, of which a telegraphic summary had been published in the Vienna newspapers. He said that, according to this report, it would appear as though he had been a consenting party to the incorporation of Sofia into Bulgaria, and had attached no great importance to its retention within the province to be left under the authority of the Sultan; and it might be assumed at Constantinople that he had made no attempt to stand up for the rights of his Sovereign. If such an impression were to prevail, his own position would be irredeemably lost. He declared that he had never shown himself indifferent about Sofia, for that he had not been spoken to on the subject of its incorporation into Bulgaria till he was told that it had been determined that that sandjak was to be included in the Principality; he had then, he said, represented that even if Sofia was to be lost, an effective strategical frontier might still be secured, and this he admits to have been done under the arrangement finally made. On being told that the first line of defence was to be surrendered, it was his duty to try to obtain the best second line possible, and it was, fortunately, a good one; but he should not have been doing his duty if he had shown himself ready to abandon the first, as might perhaps be believed.

Being in entire ignorance of all that had passed at Berlin on the subject, I had no means of judging of the accuracy with which the Pasha had stated the circumstances

of the case; but I said I was convinced that Lord Beaconsfield had never intended to convey an impression that he had not done his duty by the Sultan by a too ready acquiescence in a proposal for removing any portion of his territory from his authority. We have received only a telegraphic summary of the speech, and from it I should only deduce his Lordship to have said that the highest Turkish military authority recognized that the main strategical strength of the frontier lay, not in the district round Sofia which had been included in Bulgaria, but in the line which was ultimately secured.

The Marshal particularly requested that the matter might be placed before his Government in a manner to exonerate him from the accusations that might be brought against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 323.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 502. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 22, 1878.*

CARATHÉODORY PASHA, who arrived here from Berlin on the 17th, is much embarrassed at not receiving instructions from the Porte such as would enable him to enter into arrangements with this Government respecting the occupation of Bosnia; for those which were first sent to him, and which he was obliged to communicate to Count Andrassy, were such as to ensure the immediate rejection of the proposals contained in them. They seem to have amounted to a suggestion that the Austrian troops should occupy the country under the orders of the Turkish authorities, who were to be maintained in their functions, and that they should be under an engagement to retire whenever they might be called upon to do so.

The Porte cannot have seriously believed that such conditions would be listened to; but Caratheodory Pasha tells me that he finds Count Andrassy anxious as far as possible to respect the susceptibilities of the Sultan's Government, and he has further obtained from his Excellency the very important promise that if he can come to an arrangement with the Porte respecting the occupation he would guarantee it against attack by Servia and Montenegro. The advantage of obtaining such a guarantee is so great, that it will be much to be regretted if it is sacrificed by the hesitation of the Porte to give instructions for regularizing the conditions of an occupation which it cannot hope to avoid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 324.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 504. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 23, 1878.*

IT appears that till within two hours of the time fixed for signing the Treaty of Berlin, it was very doubtful whether the Turkish Plenipotentiaries would feel themselves in a position to attach their signatures.

Almost at the last moment they received orders from their Government not to do so without at the same time recording their protest against the occupation of Bosnia, and making some reserves respecting that measure.

It was too late for them to make any declarations to the Congress, for, as your Lordship is aware, the arrangements for the signature of the Treaty rendered this impracticable.

However, the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries, at a lengthened Conference with Count Andrassy and his colleagues, finally succeeded in obtaining a declaration to the effect that, out of deference to the wishes of the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries, those of Austro-Hungary declare, in the name of the Emperor, that in the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, decided by the Treaty about to be signed, the sovereign rights of His Majesty the Sultan should be respected, and the Austro-Hungarian Plenipotentiaries

further declare that this occupation shall for the present be regarded as of a provisional character.

After Count Andrassy signed the document to this effect—for not having seen the text I cannot guarantee its literal accuracy—Count Karolyi and Baron Haymerle refused to do so, excepting under direct orders from his Excellency, as Minister for Foreign Affairs, which he was compelled to give them.

Caratheodory Pasha, from whom I have the above account under the seal of strict secrecy, attaches much importance to a document which he had such difficulty in extracting, and considers that it should facilitate the arrangements to be come to unless his Government show a too uncompromising spirit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 325.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 505. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 23, 1878.*

I HAVE taken occasion to ask Count Andrassy whether, in coming to an understanding with the Porte respecting the occupation of Bosnia, he would not take an engagement to defend it against further aggression by the Principalities, as had been done by Her Majesty's Government with regard to Asia.

He said that the main object of Austria in occupying Bosnia and the Herzegovina was certainly to prevent the further extension of Servia and Montenegro, and he would be ready to record this in an official note to the Turkish Government, but that he did not consider that it would be desirable to make it the subject of a formal Convention.

If he were to do so the Russian Government might be induced to follow the example by trying to arrange matters in which they were interested by separate Conventions with the Porte, which had better be avoided, and he would, therefore, as he had said, prefer to confine himself to a moral engagement taken by note.

If, however, the Porte persisted in not trying to come to an understanding with him, and preferred the appearance of giving way to force, it would render it difficult to act in this respect as he would otherwise be prepared to do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 326.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 506. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 23, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY, who spoke to-day with the greatest satisfaction of the results that had been obtained by the Congress of Berlin, said that he had only within the last day or two become aware of an omission in the Treaty which had caused him much vexation.

When he signed the Treaty he had no suspicion that it did not contain a clause providing that if at the end of nine months the condition of Bulgaria and East Roumelia should not safely permit the presence of foreign troops to be dispensed with, the Russian occupying corps should be replaced by an European force.

The Treaty ought to have embodied this arrangement, as recorded in the Protocol of the sitting at which the duration of the Russian occupation was decided; and he could not understand how Baron Haymerle, who was on the Commission de Rédaction, had not noticed the omission, probably not accidental, of a point of such great importance.

Count Andrassy is not disposed to raise any question about it previous to the ratification of the Treaty, and says that it will probably be sufficient that the intention of the Powers stands recorded in the Protocol, though it would have been more satisfactory if it had been embodied, as it ought to have been, in the formal Act.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 327.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 508.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July 24, 1878.*

THE Greek Government have requested that an Austro-Hungarian Delegate may be sent to assist in marking out a new frontier between Greece and Turkey.

Count Andrassy proposes to answer that the Greek Government are under a misapprehension if they suppose that the rectification of the frontier was to be summarily carried out. The Congress, as recorded in the Protocol, stated in general terms the line of frontier which they thought it would be desirable to follow, but Count Andrassy will point out that the first step to be taken is for the Hellenic Government to endeavour to come to an arrangement with the Porte on the subject, adding that, if difficulties should arise about it, he will be ready to use his good offices in bringing about an understanding.

His Excellency presumes that a similar application will have been made to Her Majesty's Government, and that your Lordship will answer it much as he proposes to do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 328.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 510.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July 24, 1878.*

I LEARN from Count Andrassy that the military Commanders who will conduct the occupation of Bosnia have received the most stringent instructions to avoid all collision with the Ottoman troops.

Even if they find their progress impeded by a Turkish corps, of which the Commanders allege an inability to give way without further orders, the Austrian Commanders are not to attempt to push forward, but must report the circumstances and await further instructions.

The accounts latterly received of the disposition of the inhabitants of the province are stated to be quite satisfactory, the more influential of the Beys being represented as ready to welcome the approach of the Imperial troops, while, on the other hand, the temper of the lower classes, who have been industriously worked upon by adventurers and fanatics, is not so favourable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 329.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 513.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July 24, 1878.*

IN reply to your Lordship's inquiry, I stated by telegraph that I believed the selection of Rustem Pasha as Governor of East Roumelia would be the best that could be made.

I ought, perhaps, to add that I have been acquainted with him for many years, as he was my colleague at Turin and Florence, when Turkish Minister in Italy, and that I consider him to have more of the qualifications required for a Governor than any of the other Christian functionaries of the Porte now present to my mind.

Since he has been Governor of the Lebanon Mr. Consul-General Eldridge has repeatedly declared him to be the best Governor they had had there, and the complaints against him were caused by his refusal to admit the extravagant pretensions of the Roman Catholic clergy, though he is a member of that Church, which I concur with Sir Henry Layard in regarding as a recommendation in administering East Roumelia.

He is a man of courage and determination, and his impartiality with respect to all creeds might, I think, be relied upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 330.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 519.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July 26, 1878.*

A NEWSPAPER telegram of yesterday from Brod reports that a deputation, consisting of various Mussulman Beys, a Hodja and schoolmaster from the Bosnian towns of Derbend and Turkish Brod, had waited on the Austrian General Philippovics to state that, although the Mussulman inhabitants entertain profound devotion to the Emperor, they were greatly disquieted by apprehension for their lives and property and for the freedom of their religion.

General Philippovics received them very courteously, and assured them that the Austrians would enter the country as friends, and with the task of ensuring safety and justice for all the inhabitants of Bosnia, whose religions would all be respected and protected as having equal rights.

The deputation declared themselves most grateful and well satisfied with the assurances of the Commander-in-chief, and promised to circulate his words among their co-religionists, which would reassure the whole country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 331.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 117.)

My Lord, *Athens, July 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, extracted from the "Messager d'Athènes" of to-day's date, a despatch which appears to have been communicated by the Greek Government to the newspapers, reporting the destruction by fire of the crops gathered in and standing, belonging to villages in Thessaly, of which a list is given in the despatch; it also states that several houses have been burnt at Sophades, and that some houses and two children are reported to have been burnt at Leveas, and concludes by stating that the Turks are throwing up fortifications in the neighbourhood of Domoko.

I need hardly say that the reports as to the state of Thessaly and the sending troops and ships by the Porte to Volo and Prevesa are causing much anxiety and uneasiness amongst the public in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 331.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of July 19, 1878.

LUNDI le Ministère de l'Intérieur a reçu la dépêche suivante, qui a été communiquée aux journaux :

"*Larisa, le 15 Juillet, 1878.*

"L'incendie ravage la Thessalie. Toutes les céréales moissonnées ou encore sur pied des territoires des villages de Mascoulari, Sophadès, Pazaraki, Courizi, Caraluri, Ziphliki, Bécalévi, Dérali, Kazamari, Ziakhmati, Baltalari, Soupi, Sémédli, Zili, Batolévi, Balaukali, Agonni, Passali, Mousli, Handjiméri, Aslalari, Stanévri, Zamani, Velissioti, Searmitzi, Susphari, Arvani, Leveas, et Bouz ont été la proie des flammes. Hier et avant-hier vingt-deux maisons ont brûlé à Sophadès. On dit aussi qu'à Leveas dix maisons et deux enfants ont été brûlés. On ignore les causes qui ont amené cet incendie, qui ne saurait être attribué au hazard, puisqu'il s'est déclaré en

même temps sur un grand nombre de points. Les Turcs fortifient les alentours de Donoko.

No. 333.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 48. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, July 10, 1878.*

I HAVE kept your Lordship informed by telegraph of the progress of the disturbances in this town, and I have now the honour to give a succinct and detailed account of the whole affair from the first outbreak up to the present moment.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, the 3rd instant, the Austrian Consul-General, M. Wassitsch, received a communication from his Government that the British and German Plenipotentiaries at the Congress of Berlin had proposed, and the Plenipotentiaries of the other Powers had consented to, an occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina by Austrian troops, and that Austria would take in hand the administration of the country. These are the exact terms in which the information was communicated by M. Wassitsch to the Governor-General. Neither to myself nor to any of my colleagues has he made any communication on the subject. Before, however, informing the Governor-General, which he only did on the 4th, and allowing measures to be adopted to insure the maintenance of order, he most unwisely, as it appears to me, and as, indeed, has been proved by the sequel, spread this intelligence throughout the town.

The following day there was considerable excitement among the people, and they applied to the authorities to know if the report of an impending Austrian occupation of the country was true. The Pasha stated to them that he had only as yet the information communicated to him by the Austrian Consul-General, that he had applied to the Porte for confirmation of it, and that in default of an answer or of any instructions he should consider it his duty to make what resistance he could with the means at his disposal, and that he relied on the support of the people. An answer has since been received from Constantinople that the question of an Austrian occupation of Bosnia had indeed been brought before the Congress, that the Porte was actually engaged in discussing with Austria the conditions of such occupation, and that in the meantime no hostile measures were to be taken.

In my despatches, Political, Nos. 33, 35, 37, 38, and 39, I have depicted to your Lordship the general feeling of discontent which exists in this province, and this news of an approaching Austrian occupation served as a pretext for an outburst of popular feeling and a demonstration against the Government, more especially against the military authorities on whom the people threw the whole blame of the non-payment, and general neglect as regards food and clothing of the troops.

On Friday the 5th the bazaars and all the shops were closed, there was great excitement in the town, and all the Mussulmans were armed. In the course of the afternoon they assembled to the number of 2,000 or 3,000 and assailed the barracks, demanding the instant resignation and withdrawal of the Commander of the troops in Bosnia, Vely Pasha.

The only troops in garrison were Bosniaks—the battalion raised in the town and district of Serajevo,—and they sided with the people and refused to obey their officers. Three times the bugle sounded "to arms," but the soldiers paid no attention to it. The populace then burst into the barracks and liberated all the military prisoners and put arms in their hands. By this time the Governor-General, Mazhar Pasha, the Mutesshar Constani Pasha, with a few other employés and notables, had arrived on the scene and endeavoured to calm the people, but they could not be persuaded to disperse unless Vely Pasha was either given up to them, or else signed in their presence the resignation of his command. Having no troops to rely on, this he finally did. He was then permitted to quit the barracks, and the people, it being nearly dark, dispersed to their homes.

Saturday the 6th the shops were still kept closed, those persons who were willing to open their's not being allowed to by the others. The Mussulmans were still in arms, and a large party, headed by the now famous Hadji Loyo, repaired to the powder-magazine for ammunition. Hadji Loyo, in fact, became the leader of the movement, and was styled by the people their Commander, his lieutenant being a certain Burek, a murderer who had been released on the previous day from the military prison. An

attack on the Austrian Consulate was talked of, and a certain number of men had been told off to conduct the Austrian Consul and his *personnel* to the frontier, but this plan was abandoned. In the afternoon Hadji Loyo, surrounded by a concourse of people, went to the Konak. The Aka Bey, or Chief of the Police, met him at the foot of the stairs and embraced him, and conducted him to the Pasha, by whom he was well received, and coffee was served to him. The interview ended in his receiving full pardon for past offences and a present of 500 piastres. Mazhar Pasha has been blamed by many for this, but matters had come to such a pass, and there being no military in the town to be relied on, that I really think his Excellency had no alternative but to amnesty Hadji Loyo and endeavour to bring him over to the side of the Government. He is to blame, however, for having taken no measures to arrest him during the fifteen or twenty days that he had already been in Serajevo before the outbreak.

On Sunday Vely Pasha, who was ordered from Constantinople to change places with Hafiz Pasha, commander of the troops in the Vilayet of Kosovo, left Serajevo, and the day passed over tolerably quietly, although the shops were not opened and a great many of the Turks were still armed.

On Monday afternoon four companies of Albanian troops arrived from Travnik, and this was the signal for a renewal of the disturbance. Hadji Loyo excited the people by drawing their attention to the ragged and shoeless state of the soldiers just arrived, whom the natives endeavoured to gain over to their side, and before long an immense throng of armed Mussulmans again assembled and assailed the barracks, demanding this time the resignation of Liva Ismet Pasha, a Bosnian of influential family. He positively, however, refused to quit the barracks, and the Governor, Mazhar Pasha, on the strength of the few Albanian troops that had arrived, determined to show a firmer front to the people. He adjourned to the barracks, and succeeded in persuading the Bosnian battalion to remain loyal to the Government and to obey orders. This was the most critical moment, and it was not expected that the night would pass over quietly. Mazhar Pasha, however, acted with laudable energy; strong guards were placed at all the Consulates, and the town was held by the military, and his Excellency was in the streets the greater part of the night.

On Tuesday morning an official notice was published, copy of which I inclose herein. It was a hazardous stroke, as the military were not yet in sufficient strength to enforce its execution in the event of opposition. There were murmurs and threats when it was first issued, and a large body of armed Turks marching three abreast proceeded through the town to the chief mosque to hold counsel. On this occasion Hadji Loyo appears to have exerted his influence in favour of order, and a telegram having been written and sent to the Porte demanding the recall of Ismet Pasha, the people dispersed. In the course of the afternoon many of the shops were opened, and very few Mussulmans appeared in the streets armed. No rigorous measures, however, were adopted against those who acted in opposition to the official notice.

To-day, Wednesday, tranquillity prevails; all the shops are opened; it is market day, and the market is well attended, and no further disturbance is at present apprehended.

To-morrow two battalions of Asiatic troops are expected from Svornik, and on Friday Hafiz Pasha will arrive with two squadrons of dragoons and three battalions of infantry. Hafiz Pasha bears an excellent reputation for energy and courage, as well as for integrity; and with the considerable force at his command I have full confidence that he will succeed in maintaining order for the future.

Although the news of the approaching Austrian occupation was undoubtedly the immediate cause of the late outbreak, I do not believe that the majority of the population is really opposed to it, or that it will meet with any serious opposition if acquiesced in by the Porte. Of course, there are a great many individuals who know that with the arrival of the Austrians their influence in the country—an influence not always exerted for the best purposes—will cease, and they think that perhaps by a show of opposition on the part of the people the decision of Europe may be influenced. The Orthodox Christians are also not generally favourable to Austria, and they, with sundry Servian agents, no doubt work on the Mussulman population to make a show of resistance. In the present state of excitement no one, either Mussulman or Christian, dares express himself other than hostile to Austria, and ready to take part in any armed resistance to the proposed occupation. On the 6th instant a deputation, representing the Mussulmans, Orthodox Christians, Catholics, and Jews of this town, waited on me with a request to forward a telegram, copy of which I inclose, to the Congress at Berlin, protesting against any foreign occupation of the country, but expressing

their readiness to accept the control of a mixed European Commission. This telegram was signed by all creeds and classes, but many have since acknowledged to me that they only attached their signatures under the influence of fear.

These late disturbances have, I consider, indisputably proved the absolute necessity of a foreign occupation of the country to carry out reforms. The Turkish Government has so far lost its influence and prestige with the Mussulmans of this province, that they could only be kept in subjection by a large military force, and although they have now ostensibly united with the Christians in face of a common danger, there have been unmistakeable signs in their actions of late that, could they succeed in getting rid of all Osmanli employés, that they would allow no part in the administration of the country to non-Mussulmans.

At Mostar, Travnik, and other towns in the province, I hear that there have likewise been demonstrations against an Austrian occupation, but unattended by disturbances such as have occurred here, of which they are the mere reflection, and have, I consider, no real significance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 333.

Official Notice to the People of Serajevo.

[Translation.]

1. TO-DAY, at the latest by mid-day, the shops and stores and the bazaar must be opened, and everyone must occupy himself with his business. Whosoever's shop or store shall be found closed after the appointed time will be opened by the authority, and not only will the Government not be responsible for any loss occasioned by this proceeding, but the proprietor will be punished.

2. It is strictly forbidden to go armed through the town, in the bazaar, or in the faubourgs, either by day or night. Whoever contravenes this order will be arrested, [illegible] punished.

3. [illegible] are to remain closed till further orders. Whoever shall open a drinking-shop contrary to this order, and whoever is found drunk in the streets, will be arrested and punished.

4. It is forbidden to walk in the town without a lantern after the "yatzi" (1 hour 40 minutes after sunset). Whoever acts contrary to this regulation will also be arrested and punished.

5. All gatherings and meetings without the consent of the Government are forbidden. Whoever acts contrary to this decree will be punished.

6. Whoever shall force the people, either by word or deed, to close their shops, will be punished according to the law against disturbers of the peace.

Conclusion. The punishment of those who act contrary to the enactments of these six Articles will be fixed and carried into execution by the military tribunal.

Translation [illegible] 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 333.

Telegram from the People of Serajevo to the Congress at Berlin.

L'UMILE rahmanza della popolazione della Bosnia e Erzegovina, tanto Musulmana quanto Cristiana, ha l'onore di portare alla conoscenza del Congresso che ha deciso irremovibilmente, serenamente e categoricamente, colla mano armata, respingere ogni occupazione della nostra patria sia di Austro-Ungheria sia di qualsiasi armata. Del resto non siamo contrari alla Commissione Mista Europea. Sulla coscienza del Congresso poniamo salvarci della ruina et dal spargimento del sangue.

Serajevo, le 5 Luglio, 1878.

No. 334.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 51. Political.)
My Lord,

Bosna-Serai, July 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that although tranquillity has not been disturbed during the past week, there is still much excitement in this town regarding the approaching Austrian occupation. Armed resistance is still talked of, and lists have been drawn up of all those in the town and surrounding country, Mussulman, Christian, or Jew, capable of bearing arms.

Hafiz Pasha, the newly-appointed Commander of the troops in Bosnia, arrived here on the 12th instant, accompanied by a small detachment of cavalry, but with no infantry, as was announced, nor have any arrived since. He has applied to the Porte for ten battalions of Asiatic and Roumelian troops which he knows he can rely on, but can obtain no answer to his application. Indeed, he says he has received no instructions or communication of any sort from Constantinople since his nomination to Bosnia, in spite of repeated applications on various subjects. Two days ago he begged me to telegraph to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte to urge the Turkish Government to send the troops he has asked for, but as I cannot telegraph to Constantinople in cypher, I telegraphed instead to your Lordship at the Foreign Office. There are at the present moment twenty-three battalions of infantry in Bosnia, but of these nineteen are Bosnian, and cannot be relied on to act against the people in the event of disturbances. Of the other four only one is purely Turkish, the remaining three having latterly received many Bosnian recruits to complete their strength. A great number of Martini-Henry rifles have lately been received here, and two battalions now in garrison, one Turkish and the other Bosnian and Albanian mixed, have been armed with this weapon instead of the Snider rifle hitherto in use. The troops, however, are miserably clothed, and, except at Serajevo, receive no rations but bread. In the Herzegovina there are nineteen battalions, of which only six are Bosnian. The command in that sandjak is independent of Bosnia.

Hafiz Pasha says he requires the ten battalions he has asked for to guard the depôts of arms and ammunition throughout the country, and to maintain order in the chief centres of population until the entry of the Austrian troops. He wished to transfer a battery of field artillery now at Travnik to Serajevo, but he was given to understand that the people would not allow its removal, and for want of sufficient force has been obliged to postpone the transfer. Considering the reinforcement of trustworthy troops that has been received here, the Government does not certainly show the determined attitude that might have been expected, nor is there any attempt to inforce obedience to the official notice published on the 9th, and of which I forwarded a translation to your Lordship inclosed in my despatch Political, No. 48, of the 16th instant.

The day after the new Commander's arrival, the people applied to him for arms and ammunition, but he told them that without orders from his Government he would not so much as give a percussion cap. They said they should telegraph on the subject to Constantinople, which he told them they were quite at liberty to do, but that whatever answer they received he, as a soldier, would only obey the orders of his superior, the Minister of War. The people telegraphed, but I am not aware that they have received any answer.

The opposition to an Austrian occupation of the country does not appear to be so strong in the other parts of the province as at Serajevo, whence emissaries have been sent all over the country to stir up the people to resistance. The Beys of the Possavina have even telegraphed here that they will only fight if ordered by the Government and in conjunction with the regular forces, but positively refuse to allow the entry into their sandjak of Bashi-Bazouks from other parts of the province. The Mussulmans of Banjaluka do not also seem to contemplate resistance, but ask that the Government should guarantee to them the free exercise of their religion, the honour of their families, the right to carry arms, and, if they should later desire it, the permission to emigrate unmolested. A fear seems to be entertained that they will be treated by the Austrians as their co-religionists in Roumelia have, in many cases, been by the Russians and Bulgarians, and there are many persons, Servian Agents and others hostile to Austria, only too ready to work upon these groundless fears. After careful inquiry, I am inclined to believe that the opposition to Austria of the Orthodox population is not nearly so great as is generally believed. Their policy for

the moment is to unite with the Mussulmans, as they think that their lives would be in danger were it supposed that they favoured the occupation.

In the Herzegovina the people are tranquil, but the Mutesarif appears, on the strength of a communication from the Governor-General of Bosnia, to have informed the notables of Mostar that Austria has abandoned the idea of occupying the country. Here also, as day after day passes and nothing further is heard of the matter, the people begin to doubt the occupation ever really taking place.

Altogether the conduct of the authorities is, I must say, open to suspicion, and it is generally thought that the Turkish Government is playing a double game, and exciting the people to make a show at least of resistance. These latter have never been clearly told that the Porte has consented to an Austrian occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina: the lists of men capable of bearing arms are being made out under the auspices of the police, and representatives of the people meet daily in a room at the Konak or Government House to concert measures of defence. The people of Serajevo have now engaged the other sandjaks of the province also to send representatives, four from each, to discuss the present situation. They are expected to arrive in a few days, but the Sandjak of Svornik (the Possavina) has refused to send any representatives. It is also a fact to be remarked that just at the seat of Government the opposition is so much stronger and more openly displayed than in the other parts of the province. On the other hand, Hafiz Pasha assures me that he has given instructions, as ordered by the Porte, to all the commanders on the frontiers not to oppose by force the entry of the Austrians should it be attempted prematurely, but simply to protest. There appear in fact to be two separate and opposing influences at work in the country, both, however, proceeding from the Government. Your Lordship will perhaps remember that I have in former despatches expressed my opinion that the opposition need be anticipated from the people of this province, either Mussulman or Christian to an Austrian occupation, if the Turkish Government acted loyally, and abstained from all intrigue and instigation, and my opinion has not been shaken by the late demonstrations and disturbances. Let it once be clearly understood that the Porte has agreed to the occupation and will repress by force, if necessary, any opposition, and I do not believe that resistance would be again so much as spoken of.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 335.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 100. Secret.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, July 12, 1878.

IN the course of the conversation which I had this morning with Prince Wrede, the Austrian Agent here, I had occasion to remark that the apparent favour shown to this country in the Congress by Count Andrassy appeared to me to indicate very clearly a preliminary understanding with Servia, by which Austria must in some wise be a gainer, and I asked him whether he was at liberty to speak on the subject, should my surmise be correct.

Prince Wrede could not answer my question fully, but told me that, of course, it was necessary for his country to safeguard all its interests, both present and eventual, and that the project, which had been settled in all its details in 1876, and which provided for the construction of a railway from Semlin through Belgrade to Alexinatz and Nisch by the Austrian company, of which Baron Hirsch is the Director, had been insisted upon since the end of last war, and might in that sense be looked upon as a condition of Austrian support.

The admission is valuable, and the concession to which it refers secures for Austria the through routes to Salonica and Constantinople, which she ambitions.

The line from Nisch, when completed, must of course branch off in two directions: the one through Pirot to Sofia, which will connect Vienna and Constantinople; the other through Mitrovitza to Prizrend.

According to my informant, the Austrians have also the intention of obtaining for the same Company the concession of the railway which they are about to construct from Agram to Serajevo and Novi-Bazar, which will join the Salonica line at Mitrovitza.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 336.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 101. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, June 12, 1878.

THE reports which reach this Consulate from Bosnia, though subject to the greatest caution, all tend, however, to confirm the opinion I ventured to express in my despatch No. 87 of the 20th ultimo, that the agitations in that province will not cease with an Austrian occupation, and that even the latter may meet with some opposition.

The hostility between Turks and Rayahs, between Roman Catholic supporters of Austria and Greek Orthodox followers of Servia, between fanatical Mussulmans and those who hate the bureaucratic officials of Stamboul, is such that the elements are not wanting for the temporary union of several parties against whoever undertakes to govern them all.

That the Turks are at present encouraging, in an underhand manner, the anti-Austrian feeling which exists so palpably in a great portion of the Bosnian population, appears evident from the fear of the Christians, which finds its expression in the exaggerated reports and alarming intelligence daily received here.

But that the current has set in which is some day to lead to the unification of the South Slav States is the great fact which gains daily in clearness, and must engross in a particular manner the attention of those who have to weigh its consequences.

Prince Wrede, with whom I had some conversation on the subject, did not deny the fatal issue of the struggle at some future date, but spoke of the efforts at unity of the South Slav States, as likely to be made either with or against Austria.

He believed that if his country could adopt a Slav policy in conjunction with its already cumbersome dual-system of government, the aspirations of the South Slavs would become realized under Austrian rule, and the future annexation of Servia would then be only a question of time.

The remark deserves attention as the serious expression of the opinion of an Austrian official agent of merit, and all the more that it points to his knowledge that the problem of Slav unity must be faced and boldly encountered.

It is not for me to discuss the merits, or what I conceive to be the fallacy of this reasoning; but I may be allowed to register the opinion, that on the manner in which Austria will deal with Bosnia in the coming occupation of that country by her troops will depend in a great measure the strength of her influence, and hence of her power in the future.

It cannot be overlooked that the Congress has changed the relative positions of Austria and Russia with regard to these smaller States, and that whilst Austria hitherto was always looked upon as the aggressive Power against which Russian protection was necessary, the formation of another Russia in the shape of Bulgaria at the doors of Servia makes Russia in the future the Power against whom Austrian help may be required.

Your Lordship will thus notice, in conclusion, that from whatever side the matter be looked at, the condition of Bosnia remains the most important point in those parts on which political attention can be riveted, or to which it can justly be called.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 337.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 137. Political.)

My Lord,

Bucharest, July 23, 1878.

IT appears that an extraordinary session of the Roumanian Legislature will be called together in a few weeks for the purpose of considering several most important matters, viz.:—

1. Some financial arrangements.
2. The question of Jewish disabilities, with a view to its adjustment in compliance with the provisions of Article XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin.
3. To determine on the subject of the territories added to Roumania by

Article XLVI of that Treaty, and, in case of their acceptance, to pass the necessary laws for their future administration.

It is not known whether the question of the future title of the Sovereign of this country will be at all mooted, or whether the advisability of electing an Assembly *ad hoc* or "constituante," to modify certain Articles of the Constitution, in consequence of the above laws having become necessary, will be brought before the present Assembly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 338.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 415.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 26, 1878.*

I HAVE received the inclosed verbal note from the German Foreign Office proposing that the ratifications of the Treaty of Berlin should be exchanged by all the Powers on the same day.

A draft of the proposed formula for the German ratification is likewise inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 338.

Note Verbale.

L'ARTICLE LXIV du Traité de Berlin porte que le dit Traité sera ratifié, et que les ratifications en seront échangées à Berlin dans un délai de trois semaines, à partir du 13 Juillet courant, ou plus tôt si faire se peut.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de l'Empire Allemand croit qu'il serait opportun si l'échange des ratifications pouvait avoir lieu le même jour, en séance commune, et par toutes les Puissances à la fois. Le Ministère serait très-reconnaissant de recevoir jusqu'au 1er Août courant, de la part de l'Ambassade de Grande Bretagne, l'information qu'elle se trouve en possession de l'instrument de ratification, afin de pouvoir fixer le jour de l'échange dans le terme prévu par le Traité.

Berlin, le 26 Juillet, 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 338.

LA formule de Ratification Allemande sera écrite à la main et sur parchemin. Sur la première feuille se trouvera le titre :—

"*Ratification de Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne, Roi de Prusse.*

"*Traité du 13 Juillet*, 1878."

Sur la seconde feuille suivra le préambule de la ratification :—

"Nous, Guillaume, par la grâce de Dieu Empereur d'Allemagne, Roi de Prusse, &c., &c., &c.

L'alternat sera observé dans ce préambule par l'Allemagne de la manière suivante: en premier lieu se trouvera le nom de l'Allemagne comme du pays qui donne la ratification en second lieu celui du pays qui reçoit la ratification; puis des autres pays dans l'ordre alphabétique.

Ensuite sera inséré le Traité imprimé. Sur la cinquième page de parchemin se trouvera, également écrite à la main, la fin du texte de la ratification.

No. 339.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 172.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 29, 1878.*

THE first Austrian detachment entered Bosnia yesterday, opposite Graditska, and whole division will follow to-day or to-morrow.

No. 340.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 173.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 29, 1878.*

AS there seemed no prospect of an arrangement being come to with the Porte about occupation of Bosnia, Austrian Government considered it undesirable to wait any longer, and ordered entry of their troops without it, as they had informed the Turkish Plenipotentiaries that they would do.

No. 341.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 29, 1878, 5·45 P.M.*

COUNT DEYM has asked me to press on you to urge Porte strongly to accede to Austrian terms as proposed by Zichy.

I told him that you had been doing so, and that I would instruct you to continue the same representations.

We are still strongly of opinion that the Porte should accept Zichy's proposals, but I would urge still more strongly that Turkish troops should not be allowed to resist Austrian entry.

The result might be a new conflict in which the Treaty of Berlin would be torn up and Austrians might find themselves at Salonica. Instructions as above are subject to general rule contained in my telegram of July 24th, sent at 6·50 P.M.

No. 342.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir G. Wolseley.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 29, 1878, 4·20 P.M.*

DO not, without first referring home, make arrangements as to ultimate destination of arrears of taxes accrued before occupation.

Your telegrams to me should be numbered.

N.B.—This telegram was repeated to Sir G. Wolseley on the 29th July, with the following addition :—

My telegram of the 27th was sent in cypher G, which Mr. Baring has.

No. 343.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 428.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 29, 1878.*

I HAVE read with some surprise your Excellency's report, contained in your despatch No. 506 of the 23rd instant, of the remarks made to you by Count Andrassy respecting the omission from the Treaty of Berlin of a provision that, if at the end of the nine months fixed as the term for the evacuation by the Russian troops of Bulgaria and Roumelia the state of affairs in these provinces should be such that the presence of foreign troops could not be dispensed with, the Russian corps should be replaced by a European force.

The British Plenipotentiaries were not aware that Count Andrassy had definitively adhered to the proposal to that effect which he made at the meeting of the Congress of the 24th June, and which they were, and continued to be, ready to support.

The 5th Protocol, in which the proceedings of the meeting are recorded, is drawn up obscurely on this point; it recites the proposition made by Count Andrassy, and the objections made to it by Count Schouvaloff and Prince Bismarck, but it does not show that Count Andrassy adhered to his idea, and it is not evident from it that Congress pronounced any decision upon the proposal. Under these circumstances, it is probable that a new agreement on the point will be necessary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 344.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 98.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July 8, 1878.*

PRINCE MILAN opened the Skuptchina at Kragujevatz yesterday, and read the Speech of which I have the honour to inclose a translation.

A law for the increase of the standing army, which I had already led your Lordship to anticipate would become necessary, and another providing for pensions and rewards to wounded soldiers and general sufferers from the late war, are the two prominent points of the Prince's Speech.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

Inclosure in No. 344.

Speech of Prince Milan.

Honourable Deputies,

THREE years have nearly elapsed since, throughout the Balkan Peninsula, the great struggle against the common oppressor of the Servian nationalities was renewed for their final deliverance.

Faithful to the line my family have ever pursued, and true to those fraternal links which unite us with the Russians, our brethren, I called to arms the brave Servian nation in 1877 for the deliverance of our brethren and our own independence.

My words were heard by the nation, and my sentiments found an echo in their midst. The army answered my call with enthusiasm, and in company with the gallant armies of the Emperor Alexander, the liberator, we fought the double fight against the enemies and the obstacles of all kinds that beset us.

Officers and privates did their duty; our banner soon floated on the ancient walls of Nisch; we occupied and liberated a part of old Servia, and signed an armistice on the very plains of Kossovo; three centuries ago this country had seen its ruin.

The preliminary peace between Turkey and Russia stipulates independence and aggrandisement for Servia, but as I am speaking the Plenipotentiaries of the great Powers assembled in Berlin are finally regulating the international relations of the East, and from their goodwill towards us we have reason to expect, not only the recognition of our independence, but also the annexation of some of those lands which, for centuries, have belonged to us by race, and who desire so ardently their reunion with the mother-country.

It is to be hoped that those provinces which will not be united to us will find, however, that a better condition of things has been created to them for their national and social development.

Strong, therefore, of the sacrifices we have made, of the blood we have shed and that we have gained, we must show our gratitude to the Powers by the profit we will make of the peace we are entering and the development of our resources, our trade, and our national economy, by the progress in short to which we must aspire through unity and patriotism.

What a change since Kossovo! Then and about this very time our independence

died in floods of heroic blood, and now from similar blood comes forth our deliverance. These are themes of which we may well be proud, and which posterity will remember with gratitude.

In the expectation, therefore, of the resolutions of the Congress, we must confine our labours for the present to those legislative measures which specially calls attention.

The Budget will be presented to you, and I especially recommend therein the extraordinary expenses which will, of course, require extraordinary resources.

A law will be laid before you for the provision of funds for invalids and sufferers of our war of independence.

Another law for the increase of our standing army, required by our new political situation and in view of our increased territory, will also be laid before you.

You will not forget that at the present time harmony between you and my Government is especially necessary, and I trust that on the Legislature as on the battlefield, we shall keep up the glory and pride of Servia.

I declare the Skuptchina for 1878 to be open.

Kragujevatz, $\frac{\text{June 25}}{\text{July 7}}$, 1878.

No. 345.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 102.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July 22, 1878.*

THE proceedings of the Skuptchina have been somewhat secretly conducted, though what is known of them does not appear to have been possessed of great interest.

A unanimous address in reply to the Speech of Prince Milan, repeated the glories of Servian history dwelt upon in that Speech, and expressed a willingness to pass into law the projects laid before it by the Government.

This willingness subsequently found its expression in the actual voting of all the measures proposed, such as the Budget, the law which provides pensions for invalided soldiers, and that for the small increase of the standing army.

The extraordinary measures which the new state of things now renders necessary, will have to be sanctioned by another Skuptchina, for the present expires on the 25th instant, and would have closed even earlier but for Mr. Ristics, who returned here the day before yesterday from Berlin and Vienna, and proceeded this morning to Kragujevatz, there to express before the Representatives of the nation his satisfaction with the results he has obtained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 346.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 103.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a telegram which I have received from some of the inhabitants of the district of Ira praying for annexation to Servia, together with a copy of my reply.

I would, however, ask your Lordship to be so good as to instruct me generally as to the answer you wish me to give to such applications, as, I hear, more of the same nature are on their way to this Consulate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 346.

M. Gisel to Vice-Consul Marshall.

(Telegraphic.) *Pirot, July* $\frac{13}{14}$, 1878, 5·35 P.M.

WHEN you were in Irn you could convince yourself of our being true Servians, and you have promised us that we shall remain under the Servian Government; but we learn now by the newspapers that only eight villages of ours shall be Servian, while all the rest are to be Bulgarian. We implore your help that we may be Servians for ever. If not, we shall be forced to fly with our goods and families; we pray for your advice and answer.

(Signed) GISEL.

In the name of the district of Irn,
(Signed) ARONDJET STANOJEVITS.
PROTA JOVAN.
JONESA WASILJEVITS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 346.

Mr. Jerningham to M. Gisel.

Sir, *Belgrade, July* 25, 1878.

YOU must have misunderstood Mr. Marshall's promise to report your wishes to me, as he clearly could not have authority to do more, and in answer to your wishes, now telegraphically expressed, I can only say I will make them known to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in London.

You must, however, be aware that the Congress of Berlin was a European assemblage who decided as they deemed best for the general welfare of the Eastern nationalities, but could not take into account every individual and particular aspirations.

(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 347.

Sir R. Wood to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 30.)

(No. 42.)
My Lord, *Tunis, July* 23, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your Lordship's knowledge the inclosed paragraph, which has appeared in the French paper "La Liberté" of the 16th July, and which was reproduced on the following day by the "Montagsblatt," published at Berlin.

It is therein stated that it is no longer a matter of doubt that England offered the annexation of the Regency of Tunis to France, but that M. Waddington declined the offer, stating that he desired to return to France with clean hands.

As this Article has been transmitted to Tunis with letters from Paris commenting upon the policy of Her Majesty's Government with reference to this country for communication to the Regent, I venture respectfully to ask whether your Lordship will be pleased to authorize me to give it a formal contradiction in order to remove the impression which it is calculated to produce upon the mind of His Highness as well as of the population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure in No. 347.

Extract from "La Liberté" of July 16, 1878.

L'AGENCE MacLeon nous a communiqué la dépêche suivante:—

Berlin, 17 *Juillet*, 1878, 8*h. matin.*

"Le 'Montagsblatt' publie la nouvelle qui suit:—

"'Il n'est douteux pour personne aujourd'hui que l'Angleterre a offert à la France l'annexion de Tunis, mais M. Waddington déclina cette offre en disant: je veux m'en retourner les mains nettes.'"

No. 348.

Colonel Maude to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 30.)

(No. 21. Political.)
My Lord, *Warsaw, July* 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the regiments of the Russian Imperial Guard, quartered in the Kingdom of Poland previous to the Turkish war, have been ordered to return here; and are expected, in about three weeks, to arrive in Warsaw from the seat of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS C. MAUDE.

No. 349.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received July* 30.)

Sir, *Admiralty, July* 27, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell, dated at Gallipoli the 17th instant, No. 18, reporting the state of affairs there and at Bulaïr.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

Inclosure in No. 349.

Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *"Agincourt," off Gallipoli, July* 17, 1878.

BEYOND the occurrence reported in my letter of this date, No. 17, nothing of any special importance has taken place at Gallipoli, or in the neighbourhood, for some time past.

The troops at Bulaïr are being constantly drilled, and the arrival of thirty-six field-guns from Constantinople has put the lines in a thorough state of defence.

The sickness amongst the soldiers continues, and may be attributed to the deficiency and bad quality of the water-supply, as reported by me on a former occasion.

The Russians have been for some time past intrenching themselves on the hills in the rear of Kadikoi, evidently with the object of protecting the road to Keshan; and I understand there are about 3,000 men employed on the work.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

P.S.—The Turkish turret-ship "Hefzi Rahman," which has been here for the last four months, embarked troops to-day, and is on the point of sailing for Crete, I believe.

J. E. C.

No. 351.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 30.)

(No. 700.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 29, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Consul Sandwith to-day :—

"May I inform Provisional Government that England will use her good offices with the Porte for preparing an equitable form of Government with Crete? The Christians are getting desperate, and this will make them wait patiently."

The Grand Vizier states to me that he is quite ready to accept the good offices of England in coming to an arrangement for the future Government of Crete.

No. 352.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 30.)

(No. 701. Most Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 29, 1878.

WHILST Safvet Pasha is strongly in favour of an arrangement as to Austrian occupation of Bosnia, Sultan is represented to insist upon the conclusion of a formal Convention, specifying the term of occupation and the localities to be occupied by the Austrian troops, and providing that the administration of the province shall continue with the Turkish authorities. I am informed under the greatest secrecy that should the Sultan persist in this course the Grand Vizier will instantly resign. A further representation has been made to His Majesty on the subject through his First Secretary, but with what result I do not yet know. German Government has notified to the Porte that it will not remain indifferent to the danger of fresh disturbances arising from Porte's refusal to abide by the decisions of the Congress respecting occupation of Bosnia, and that it will, therefore, bring all its influence to bear for the settlement of this question. It is feared that Musrif Effendi, Minister of Public Works and Instruction, who has chiefly instigated this opposition, will succeed Grand Vizier should he resign. Do not communicate this telegram to Vienna.

No. 353.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 30.)

(No. 702.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 30, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 697, my French, Austrian, and Italian colleagues and myself, have directed our respective Commissioners to continue their inquiries as long as they are in a majority, notwithstanding opposition and withdrawal of the Russian Commissioner.

No. 354.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, July* 30, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram of 25th July, Viceroy telegraphed yesterday that it appeared now too late for Napier to go to Merve.

No. 355.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir G. Wolseley.

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 30, 1878, 3 P.M.

AS Mr. Baring's services are urgently required at Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, I shall be glad if you will direct him to return to his post as soon as you can possibly dispense with his presence in Cyprus, and inform me of the date of his probable departure.

No. 356.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir G. Wolseley.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 30, 1878, 3·15 P.M.

FIRST Lord of the Admiralty is very anxious to know when you will find yourself able to dispense with the Admiral and with some of the ships now anchored off Cyprus.

Please to reply to me by telegraph.

No. 357.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir G. Wolseley.

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 30, 1878, 5·5 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Secretary of State for War :—

"It is most important, unless you think risk of life or serious discontent would result, that some reduction in Indian force should take place; therefore, if possible, send back as many as the four transports under orders for Bombay will safely hold.

"Admiral Meads wishes each of these steamers should take a sailing-vessel in tow with Cavalry horses.

"Admiralty Indian Transport Officer, who knows Red Sea, asserts it can be done with perfect safety and comfort.

"Put on board full supply of ship rations suitable for Indian troops, and telegraph to Malta for supplies you require to replace them."

No. 358.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 429.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 30, 1878.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 508 of the 24th instant, respecting the answer which Count Andrassy proposed to return to the request of the Greek Government, that an Austro-Hungarian Delegate might be sent to assist in marking out a new frontier between Greece and Turkey, I transmit herewith copies of despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens and Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, from which you will learn the nature of the answer which has been given by Her Majesty's Government to the request of the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, that they would press on the Porte the recommendation of the Congress with respect to the rectification of the Greek frontiers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 359.

Vice-Consul Summa to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 64. Consulaire.)
My Lord, *Scutari, le 22 Juillet*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de rapporter à votre Seigneurie que des préparatifs continuent toujours ici dans le but de s'opposer par les armes à toute cession du territoire au Monténégro.

La nouvelle surtout, qu'outre Antivari on avait également accordé au Monténégro les places fortes de Potgoritza, Spouz, et Zablak, a causé une très-grande surexcitation ici.

Une réunion de tous les Chefs du pays a eu lieu pour s'entendre sur les renforts à envoyer à Potgoritza et sur les moyens à employer pour repousser les Monténégrins.

Bref, le pays est décidé à la résistance, et surtout les habitants de Potgoritza s'opposeront, par les armes, à l'occupation de leur territoire; d'autant plus que le Gouverneur de Scutari, au lieu de les contenir, encourage même le mouvement et les pousse à la défense.

C'est pourquoi que j'ai cru de mon devoir d'adresser à votre Seigneurie ma dépêche télégraphique datée du 18 de ce mois, et de vous soumettre, my Lord, la nécessité que des ordres soient donnés au Gouverneur de Scutari pour qu'il ait à réprimer le mouvement avant qu'il ne prenne une plus grande extension.

Je suis fondé à croire que cette tâche lui serait aisée. Le Vali n'aura qu'à prendre des précautions pour contenir les habitants de Potgoritza, qui sont les plus turbulents, et donner des ordres rigoureux pour empêcher dans cette ville les réunions du Comité qui provoque les enrôlements et excite le peuple à la résistance.

Il faut, par conséquent, qu'il reçoive des ordres catégoriques de Constantinople et qu'il soit tenu à les exécuter.

Dans ce cas, la tranquilité sera bientôt rétablie ici, et l'on empêchera une effusion de sang, qui aurait lieu, si le Gouverneur de Scutari continue à garder l'attitude actuelle; et en laissant grossir le mouvement, il y a lieu à craindre que sous peu son autorité ne sera que nominale et impuissante à le réprimer.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) F. SUMMA.

No. 360.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, July* 31.)

Constantinople, le 30 *Juillet*, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

NOUS avons fait savoir au Cabinet de Berlin que, par suite des usages particuliers à notre pays en matière de ratification de Traité, et notamment de la nécessité des traductions, nous avions reconnu qu'il nous serait impossible d'être prêts à prendre part, dans le délai indiqué, à l'échange des ratifications.

Nous avons demandé en même temps que le Cabinet de Berlin indiquât quelque mesure propre à nous épargner tout désagrément en raison de ce manque d'exactitude bien involontaire de notre part. Le Gouvernement Impérial d'Allemagne nous a répondu qu'une prolongation de délai ne pourrait résulter que d'une entente entre toutes les Puissances Signataires du Traité, entente qui devait être demandée par la Turquie; que, quant au Cabinet de Berlin, il ne pourrait se dispenser de convoquer toutes les Puissances à procéder, au terme fixé, à l'échange des ratifications, à moins que la Sublime Porte n'ait pu, avant l'échéance de ce terme, se procurer l'assentiment des Puissances pour sa prolongation.

Veuillez donc soumettre immédiatement la question à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et lui exposer le caractère en quelque sorte de force majeure qui nous met, à notre grand regret, dans l'impossibilité d'être prêts en temps utile, en le priant, conformément à la marche indiqué par le Cabinet de Berlin, de consentir à ce que le délai fixé pour l'échange des ratifications soit, à notre sollicitation, prolongé de quinze jours à partir de l'échéance du terme fixé

No. 361.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 703.)

Therapia, July 30, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING received to-day from International Commission at Gumerjina:—

"Result of evidence of refugees in neighbourhood of Dimotica that Russians during last six weeks burnt innocent villages and destroyed inhabitants. According to trustworthy information just received we believe that the Russian army is on the point of attacking Turkish village near Karaja, outside their lines, where the Commission intend going. Commissioner adds that they will endeavour to prevent useless shedding of blood. I have communicated above to my Austrian, French, and Italian colleagues."

No. 362.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 704.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 30, 1878.

TELEGRAM has been received by the Porte to the effect that on learning that Austrian troops had crossed the Bosnian frontier the population at Bosna-Seraï demanded that guns, rifles, and ammunition should be delivered up to them. Turkish authorities refused and conflict ensued, in which there were killed and wounded on both sides. Troops ended by joining the people, Mussulmans and Christians, and marching with them against Austrians, who had entered Bosnia at Gradiska. The Government of Serajevo had been deposed by insurgents, and there was a great and general excitement, which the authorities had no power of calming.

No. 363.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 705.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 30, 1878.

THE decision of Council held to-day on question of Bosnia was rather conciliatory, but unlikely, I am informed, to be accepted by Austria. Porte states that it cannot send orders as recommended by you for its forces not to resist the entry of the Austrian troops, as in the present state of the country there is no one to execute them.

No. 364.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 174.)

(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, July 31, 1878.

I HAVE received following telegram from Mr. Freeman, dated Bosna-Seraï, yesterday:—

"With reference to Mahommedan outbreak last Saturday. Government houses attacked; firing lasted whole afternoon, but few casualties. Governor and Vice-Governor deposed by population; they attempted to quit, but were prevented by mob and robbed of everything. Commander, with some troops, attempted to escape in the night, but was brought back prisoner; he has now been installed as Governor by the people, but is a puppet in their hands. Perfect anarchy prevails, and the worst class has the upper hand. Consulates, including Austrian, respected so far. Arms and ammunition distributed yesterday to all creeds and classes. Together with the military chest all march against Austrians shortly. Austrians should hasten their advance or the consequences may be serious. Telegraph wires cut by population on Saturday and only just renewed. Please communicate to Foreign Office. Austrian colleague requests that above information may be communicated to his Government; he sent messenger to Mostar, Saturday, but perhaps he did not arrive."

No. 365.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 175.)

(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, July 31, 1878.

I HAVE sent following telegram to Mr. Freeman to-day:—

"I have received your telegram of yesterday. Austrian Government do not apprehend danger from disturbances at Serajevo. They think that armed bands reported to be marching from that place will disband on approach of Austrian troops, which, by this time, have crossed frontier at five points."

No. 366.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 176.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 31, 1878.*

IN answer to request of Porte that ratifications of Berlin Treaty be postponed, Count Andrassy supported German proposal that if Porte cannot prepare the documents by 3rd August, Turkish Ambassador at Berlin should on that day declare Treaty to have been duly ratified by Sultan.

No. 367.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir G. Wolseley.

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 31, 1878, 4·15 P.M.*

TELEGRAPHIC messages from you incorrectly transmitted. I have instructed Ambassador at Constantinople to make arrangements for placing efficient European clerks at Lattakia and other points where messages are repeated, and to communicate with you.

No. 368.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 877.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 31, 1878.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 906, Confidential, of the 14th instant, giving an account of a conversation which you have had with the Armenian Patriarch relative to his position, and the feelings prevalent amongst his co-religionists owing to the manner in which the Armenian question has been treated by the Congress at Berlin, and I have now to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your language on this occasion, as well as the advice which you gave to the Patriarch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.